

SEVEN DAYS



**OSCAR
OPTIONS**

PAGE 34
70 film critics pick
the winners

FREE

City on Wire

How did Burlington Telecom
become a high-stakes balancing act?

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HERE COME DA JUDGE

PAGE 28

VT's first female on the fed bench

CHUBBY SWEETS

PAGE 35

Do you know the muffin man?

CASE CHASE

PAGE 44

Tracking down Neko in the NEK



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FEEDback

READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

BT YEASAYER

As I understand it, the city council-appointed Blue Ribbon Committee tops the only way forward for Burlington Telecom is to sell a controlling interest to a private party and let one of a few profit corporations ["Blue Group," February 18]

What corporate in Burlington is that BT is so trouble primarily from having to appease Council — apparently the "Public" the Vermont Public Service Commission and Public Service Board are supposed to serve. Read the "Order and Consent" pdfs. They're full of giveaways to Comcast and a crippling restriction on BT's funding.

Poor Comcast, with only \$2.6 billion in profits last year (up a billion from 2008), they really do need protection from the outcast competitiveness of the City of Burlington, don't they?

Instead of supplanting the committee should conclude that

1. A utility with BT's incredible potential for enhancing Burlington's economy and tax revenue, not to mention the services it provides to nonbusiness users, should be funded like one, owned by the city, and supported, not crippled, by the state.

2. It doesn't matter who, or even if, it "breaks even." Does your police department break even? How about your fire department? School? Roads? Get the idea? It's an infrastructure investment.

falls, with all kinds of auxiliary benefits that will never show up in the bottom line, but are worth it nonetheless.

As a taxpayer, I want the city council to stop harassing BT, support it fully and put pressure on the state to quit giving away the telecom "favor" to companies who [couldn't] care less about the people of Vermont.

Alan Wagner
BURLINGTON

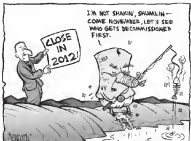
UTILITY CUSTOMERS BENEFIT

A recent story headlined "Vermont Utilities Stand to Make Millions from Yankin's Reconnection" ["Local Matters," February 17] got it wrong. All of the benefits of salvaging Vermont Yankin, including any benefits from the revenue sharing agreement referenced in the story, will flow directly to our electric customers.

Vermont utility regulators must prudently manage costs as pass-throughs, with no markup by utilities. Any revenue sharing would serve to mitigate power costs, so GMP and CVPS will not pocket a dime from Vermont Yankin, whether or not the plant is reconnected.

The story explained the potential benefit of millions of dollars under the revenue sharing agreement utilities have with Boring, the value of which will vary depending on future market prices.

TIM NEWCOMB



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"Thank you to our community for another successful Maple Hill Mardi Gras Celebration. We are especially grateful to Mayor Kim, the City of Burlington, and all of its incredible departments for working together to create a safe and fabulous event!"

THANKS TO... Burlington Police Department: Police Chief Michael Schilling, LT Art Ops LT Bruce Fowl, LT Hunter Hatch, Burlington Fire Department: Fire Chief Michael Conell, Dep. Chief Seth Lash, Dep. Chief Steve Bousquet, Steve Goodland, Burlington Public Works: Ron Johnson.

The Hudson: Missi Gifford, Betty Cassidy and the staff and businesses on the Church Street Marketplace, Joe Eisner, Douglas Rae Director and OCCO, Kevin Chaves

Jeany Spaulding, Green Mountain Cancer Services, Anne Rufford, Lou and Kate Nade and all of their flower peddlers, Jim Pollack, Jerry Gansfield, Ray Emdin,

John Newman, Jan Goffman, Karen Bates, Todd Dyer, Chris Brady, Z. Leggs, and the entire Higher General Court Judges Rogers, Michael Fanchette, Bill Steiner and Stewart

Chambers, George, Mike Williams and the crew of the Iceberg Bar & Ice House, Alan Campbell, Radio North, Radio 101.5, Carole's of Thoreau, Jon Langman, Gary Coffey, Deany Clark, Bill Collins and

Professional Painting and Decorating, Ann Davis and Pioneer Arts, Stephen Tremblay and Joe Mahoney Light, WICC Radio, Burlington High School, Doug and Michael Shewen Productions,

Baritone-Michael Gaby Dumas, Robert BDA, Metroville, The Harmonies and the Harmonies Crew, McMillan Design, Stuart Scott, Holiday Inn Express, Sheraton, Circle K and the on-site talent

of WDEV and The Buzz, Paula Hinton, Paula Hinton, Kelly Roberts, JJ Stone, Ann Fiedler, Scott Hays, John Hays, John Lee, Scott, Lynn Hays, Steve Wright, Rob Hays and all the staff of their parent

Special Thanks to our amazing partners: WDEV, Seven Days Newspaper, 99.9 The Buzz, Jeffery Arvey, Ben & Jerry, the Hill in a Hand Burlington, Jay Peak Resort and a special nod to

Lake Champlain Chocoliers. Thanks and gratitude to our sponsors of Veterans sponsored by Children Wilson, Edna McDonald, Ted Kirta, and the Vermont State Capitol: UNVH

Green Life, UNVH, Champlain College Dance Team, Champlain College Rugby Team, Norwich Cadets, Saint Michael's College MGV, Vermont Law School, who were our 1st ever

"Guest" "Guest" "Guest" flag and appreciation to Kim Rufford and her team, Rob Rufford, Scott Davidson, Bill Ward, Cheryl Hart, Sharon Martin, Sam Dalton and the Magic

of the staff of the Captain's performance. There is no way the fun festival could keep happening without all of our partners' support!

(Thanks to anyone we inadvertently left off our list -)

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Outdoor Gear Exchange, American Railroad, Vermont Workers Center, Garden Supply, VTRG, Seven Days, WDEV, The Buzz, and many others.

The Vermont State Capitol of Burlington is thrilled to announce that it raised almost \$10,000 (and counting) this year! Thank you to everyone who shared their support for the

WICC. If you or your business had a great time at the parade, we encourage you to thank the WICC by making a tax-deductible donation by calling 864-6656. The WICC provides

an important community service and owes greatly to the support of individuals, businesses, and events such as the Maple Hill Mardi Gras. Thank you!

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Furthest & IFW — Eric Seiberg's hot like a red
on a dark blue sweater and badge like only dog out
the house for a moment and a moment.

SEVEN DAYS 

FLIN STUFF

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Fig. 6. Mean values of the parameters of the fitted curves for the different groups of subjects.

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the
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MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK

EMPLOYED BY CAROLYN FOR

SATURDAY 6

Where the Wild Things Are

[illegible]

THE CALIFORNIA LISTING FOR PAGE 17



FRIDAY 5

Recline Us In

St. Patrick's Day is on the horizon, and a Whiskey & Cider concert provides a welcome tonic to us feisty as Irish as Irish-born **Bruce**. Founded in 1985, some top Celtic songs of life enhanced by the tin whistle, button accordion and fiddle. With arrangements of Irish and traditional tunes as well as original pieces, the informed ensemble "fills the bloodline of the heart," according to Irish Music. That should help us make it through March.

SEE CALLING LISTINGS
ON PAGE 100



FRIDAY 5

Could It Be? Yes, It Could

As Tony sings in *West Side Story*: "Something's coming, something good." In this case, it's *West Side Story*'s Campden's edge-by-the-sea location on the Shetlandpeninsula-inspired love story. Forty young dancers make no modern-specific word beats. A choreographer Sarah Cawley's *The Story* which portrays the emotional clash of the *Shoosha* and *Jets*. Playwrights can be analysed a performance in *Higher Ground*.

THE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT 68 PAGE 33





WEDNESDAY 10 Wandering Minstrels

The idea of *Wandering Minstrels*, 2000 debut album by The Roots & Trunkle, captures the spirit of the early folk of the South in a modern sound. Folk influenced (you can hear the roots of the old) in pop in songs such as "Root" and "Root in the Roots." With a sense of the album in the roots, for those early this year the artist may break out updated pieces of their Vermont visit this week.

SEE MUSIC SPREADSHEET PAGE 41

6 ONSDAY 10 Out of This World

Scenic views from the Vermont State Center current: "The World Other World" can be seen in Vermont State Center where you can see the landscape and imagined structures in the film. Paintings and large-scale sculptures by Cam Cohen Cam Cohen Read Hoz and the other artists make up the otherworldly institutions created by the VSC. David Greenly: Ready for a change of scenery? This is it.

SEE ART SPREADSHEET PAGE 40

SUNDAY 7 Live From the Red Carpet

The 82nd Oscars are fast approaching and the live event from the Red Carpet is one of the most exciting of the year. For the second year, a host of the *Academy Awards Party* for those of us looking for a live event. A stretch line of red carpet and event coverage is complete with live coverage from the Red Carpet and live broadcast on the big screen. All this for free? Hollywood should be proud.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

4 FRIDAY 5 Victory Garden

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FAIR GAME | Open session on Vermont politics BY SHAY TOTTER

Old Habits Die Hard

The Vermont Senate's vote against the reformers of Vermont Yankee didn't stop its parent company, Strategy, from unleashing the fight in "far from over."

Take the findings of an "independent" review that found its employees never extended to critical regulators and legislators about the existence of under ground pipes.

The investigation was conducted by the "Independent, outside" law firm of Magaya, Lewis and Buckles.

Who are they?

In 1994, the firm conducted a similar review at Maine Yankee in response to a whistleblower claim that MY had falsified information to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, according to *not* *some* of the New England Courier.

The report's findings in the MY case were similar to the one at VE.

"What most folks don't realize about MLN—conglomerate to the nuclear mafia—is that they are also outstanding among the architects of the so-called nuclear renaissance," said Shulkin.

To wit, this "independent" law firm is currently representing the New York based Indian Point nuclear reactor in its rehearing proposal before the NRC. And, in 2008, the firm represented Borealis Nuclear Vermont Yankee as a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Energy for failing to create a disposal solution for high-level nuclear radioactive waste. It also represented American, the company that tried to buy VE before Borealis.

Despite claims last month it would usher in "greater transparency," Borealis may be doing just the opposite by refusing to share information from the interest of probe with state regulators and a legislature oversight panel.

Instead, they turned the report over to Attorney General **AND** **SHULKIN**, who is conducting a criminal investigation into Borealis's lies. Because the report is now part of the criminal probe, it cannot be released publicly.

Unlike underground pipes, some habits are hard to break.

The Nuclear Hangover

Thousands of people packed downtown Burlington last Saturday for the March



**IN A SPONTANEOUS
MARDI GRAS MOMENT,
I HITCHED A RIDE
WHEN THE YANKEE FLOAT
CROSSED MAIN
AND CHURCH.**

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM
PETER SHULKIN

Gras parade. Among the floats was the one sponsored by the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, featuring a "retired" Vermont Yankee cooling tower. Pulling the float? A 19-year old carman to synthesize the aging nuclear reactor.

The float also featured some other dual Senate President **PRO TEM** and gubernatorial wannabe **PETER SHULKIN**, the Vermont politician who has hitched himself politically to the closure of Vermont Yankee. Some say the Senate vote two weeks ago was designed to showcase his leadership skills.

Shulkin literally jumped on the YPBG float with his campaign signs, heads and necks up in tow.

Trouble is, despite his role in YPBG, he's supposed to stay neutral when it comes to political endorsements. Doing

otherwise could jeopardize their next election.

VPBG Executive Director **PAUL BURNS** called the March 13th event a "very, unorthodox" protest that I deeply regret. "I gather the people we had in back, who were helping out with tanning beds, did not understand the problem with having a candidate for office climb aboard," said Burns. "I can assure you this certainly was not planned in any way."

Shulkin concurred.

In a spontaneous Mardi Gras moment, I hitched a ride when the Yankee float crossed Main and Church, and I helped my friends throw candy. Shulkin wrote in an email to "The Green" "We could not have received just spontaneous fun."

Spontaneous, indeed.

Say "AHS"

When lawmakers return from this week's break, their attention, and ours, will be focused on the \$150 million deficit projected for FY 2011.

To date, the House and Senate have passed a bill, dubbed "Challenges for Change," calling for \$38 million in savings through yet to be created efficiencies in state government.

That leaves a mere \$112 million gap to close. Of that, about half is expected to come from the Agency of Human Services. The governor has proposed a \$50 million cut there in FY 2011. Total state and federal spending through AHS is roughly \$1.6 billion annually. Less than half of that comes from the state.

Those cuts — in state funds — plus, from the agency is less as federal money, and AHS Secretary **KEE HOFFMAN**.

"Nobody denies that we forgo these federal funds," said Hoffman. "We just don't have the general funds to spend."

There's more than \$200 million at stake, too.

"Challenges for Change" will likely take another \$17 million from AHS and, due to federal cutbacks and federal funds, the agency stands to lose another \$4 million from Washington as a result.

The math amounts to roughly \$160 million in social service spending cuts

— in one year. An other grant funded program wind down, state money won't be available to keep them going.

Recounted **Tom Kaser** predicts \$30 million in cuts would translate to 3000 jobs lost per year over the next two fiscal years, mostly in businesses and nonprofit that provide services funded by state and federal grants, and commercial establishments to those workers patronize.

Kaser used the same economic modeling software that big business groups use to determine the positive effects of state tax increases.

Cuts both ways, I guess.

Depressed yet?

As a result of staff reductions at the Department of

Education, nearly 100 program won't survive to serve kids support west at least next year. They were waiting for state approval, according to officials with the Vermont Department of Education. The biggest cuts hit the Vermont Department of Education. The biggest cuts hit the Vermont Department of Education. The biggest cuts hit the Vermont Department of Education. The biggest cuts hit the Vermont Department of Education.

DOE officials have recognized staffing an attempt to clear up the backlog this year and find thousands of kids.

The proof, as they say, is in the pudding.

Order in the Court

The jury is still out on a House bill to restructure Vermont's courtsystem. When they return to the Statehouse, lawmakers will take up a sweeping proposal that would potentially close two county courts — Grand Isle and Essex — merge many county court functions into the state supreme, strip away the powers of Vermont's county judges, or "judges," and make county clerks answer to state administrators.

The result? A "unified" court system that has more centralized budget and staffing management. Currently county courts — which include superior and probate functions — are largely autonomous from their district court counterparts.

The proposal has upset many of the 14 county clerks, 18 elected assistant judges and probate judges in the targeted districts, as well as other powerful state institutions. Specifically, Sen. **WILL SUZUKI** (R-Barnet/Williston) and Sen. **DOCK HAZEN** (D-Champlain/Grand Isle).

There have been plenty of attempts to create a more cohesive judicial system under the control of the Vermont Supreme Court, but Chief Justice **PAUL REED** and Associate Justice **DAVID JENNINGS** tell "Fair Game" the conventional wisdom, which they support, is different

because of the budget crisis.

If approved, the judicial restructuring effort would save state and county taxpayers roughly \$2.6 million, Kaser said.

Opponents of the plan assert as part of a long-standing power grab to dismantle county government.

"It's no coincidence that the state, which is teetering on the edge of fiscal disaster, is at their most vulnerable. There could not have been a better opportunity for the Supreme Court to

slip their plan through with as little public scrutiny as possible," said Chittenden County Clerk **DAVID LAMBERT**.

While he understands the concerns of probate judges, assistant judges and clerks, Kaser noted that victims of crime are being harmed by the courts' inability to hear domestic and family court cases expeditiously.

"This is not merely an academic exercise," said Kaser. "The people's fundamental right to equal justice under the law is at great risk right now."

The Vermont Democratic Party stepped into the fray this week, urging the Legislature to reject any measures that seriously cut back on county court hours and staffing.

"A 'unified' and centralized court system is not in the best interests of Vermonters and flies in the face of our tradition of local control," read a resolution adopted by the party's executive committee. "The result will be unemployment and further economic decline for these small, rural communities."

Johnson said there's more at risk than jobs.

"Realistically, what's at stake is the stability of the entire court system, and it's already in a fragile state right now," Johnson said.

Town Meeting Day Roundup

Hills close after deadline, so read any online addendums to "Fair Game" for a post Town Meeting Day 2014 analysis of Burlington city council races, instant runoff voting and Vermont Yankee votes. You'll find it at sevendaysvt.com. @

1. Let's see it! Please bring in the "Fair Game" Town into WRTV NewsChannel 5 on Tuesday nights during the 11 p.m. newscast for a press run.

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In Yankee's Wake, Legislators Look to Fast-Track Renewable Power Projects

BY ANDY BROMAGE

Minutes after voting to shut down Vermont's Yankee, state Senate leaders sanctioned reporters to talk about "where we got from here." The lawmakers' answer: wind, solar, geothermal and offshore fueled "free power."

"We have an economic boom waiting on a nation and as a planet, as we get off our addiction to oil and move to renewable [energy] technology," said Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin. (D, Windham)

so projects can't be indefinitely delayed by citizen groups that oppose them.

"Everybody loves renewable energy in Vermont," Klein says. "Well, where's it if it doesn't take much money for a person or group of people to stop dead in its tracks. It's too easy and without merit."

The Sheffield wind turbine project illustrates Klein's point. Plans to build 16 wind turbines on the Northeast Kingdom town won state approval in 2006 but have stayed bogged down in citizen appeals ever

since then. Disputes over a renewable energy project's impact on air pollution, aquatic species, storm water runoff and wetland habitats would no longer be heard by an environmental judge but by a three-member panel of utility experts.

Klein says this new proposed process makes sense because Public Service Board members, having already reviewed approved energy projects, are familiar enough with them to determine the merits of an appeal.

renewable sources — and say they're willing to pay more for it. A "deliberative poll" conducted for the state Department of Public Service in 2007 found that Vermonters overwhelmingly favored increasing renewable power production in the state. The deliberative process involved gathering a sampling of Vermonters in a hotel for a weekend of informational sessions on energy. When those sessions were over, 90 percent of participants supported the building of a wind farm within



EVERYBODY LOVES RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VERMONT. WELL, WHERE IS IT?

STATE REP TONY KLEIN



Even as senators debated the future of the 30-year old nuclear plant, lawmakers on the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee were hearing testimony on a bill aimed at speeding the construction of wind turbines, geothermal energy and "free power" energy projects.

State Rep. Tony Klein (D, East Montpelier), the chairman of that committee, is shepherding a bill that could significantly alter how windfall farms and other renewable energy projects get built in Vermont. Klein says the goal is to overcome a number of sticking points that have stalled construction of such projects and to "accelerate" the appeals process

over. Two other wind projects in Milton and Bennington have received the state's OK, but neither has made ground.

Citizen in Lowell, meanwhile, voted Tuesday on a 25 turbine project proposed by Green Mountain Power that would provide enough energy to power 10,000 homes each year. Support for it is waning, to say the least. The town of it has also weighed in on a proposed windfall development on Town Meeting Day.

The legislators wending through Klein's committee would the ground change. Perhaps most importantly, it would transfer jurisdiction over appeals from the Environmental Court to the Public

Utility Board. The bill would also make it easier to erect meteorological towers or "test towers" — steel structures that stand up to 240 feet tall and measure wind speed for prospective turbine farms. Also on the bill: All of Vermont's non-power producers would get premiums, above market rates for electricity they produce. Struggling dairy farms would be offered incentives to lease parts of their land for renewable projects. Finally, public notice and review schedules would be shortened for the construction of test towers.

Shumlin has shown that a majority of Vermonters want more energy from

right of their house, 80 percent said they would pay more for energy that didn't cost greenhouse gases, and 73 percent said they would shell out an extra \$18 or more per month for green power.

But not everyone thinks Klein's plans for "expediting" renewable projects are a good idea. Anneke Smith of the Vermont Farm, Forest, and Fishery Council, which helps citizen groups navigate the complex regulatory process for big energy projects, says she opposes Klein's bill because it addresses the "perceived" problems holding up renewable energy, not

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Dean Reloaded: How the Former Vermont Governor Is Firing Up the Health Care Debate

BY ANDY BROMAGE

With Democrats against the ropes on national health care reform, Vermont's political powerhouse has come out swinging.

Howard Dean is revving the country trying to fire up Democrats weary from months of setbacks at the hands of Republicans — who, despite their small numbers in Congress, have effectively blocked much of the Democratic agenda. At an appearance in Burlington on February 12, the former Vermont governor and Democratic National Committee chairman told a gathering that Democrats must go “tougher” if they want to win political battles.

“We have a Republican majority who are like a sledgehammer, and we are like a rusty rusty sledgehammer,” Dean told the crowd, according to the Burlington *Free Press*. “We need to stand up for what we believe.”

POLITICS

IS “THE BELTWAY” FINALLY LISTENING TO DR. DEAN?

as and we need to do it every single day.”

Dean never really left the political stage after stepping down as Democratic chairman, but he's playing an especially prominent role in the national health care debate. No longer a candidate, office holder or establishment party insider, Dean has reemerged as a left wing rabble rouser and a champion for what he's referred to as “the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party.”

Dean's outspokenness has even fueled rumors about his challenging President Obama in a 2012 primary, or ending his post as chairman of the national Democratic Party — criticism Dean has said is not on his radar.

For now, though, he is maintaining a jam-packed public appearance schedule. Dean appears almost weekly on MSNBC and is frequently quoted on well read news and opinion websites such as the Huffington Post, Politico and Firstmonday. He is championing for Democratic candidates in New Hampshire and Oregon, and making

a direct to consumer marketing connection in Washington, D.C. — and even debating Karl Rove in college campus townhalls.

For money, he works as a senior strategic adviser and independent consultant with the Washington, D.C., law and lobbying firm Wolfson Long & Stidley.

Dean declined to be interviewed for this article, despite numerous requests by Seven Days. But those who know Dean and understand the Washington political landscape say his influence is significant.

The real influence that Howard Dean has, a not inside the Beltway, is out in the grassroots around the country, says Bob Kagan, who worked for Dean as governor and presidential candidate and is now chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Peter Welch. “When Howard Dean talks, the grassroots listen and react.”

Even as the president and Democrats hold televised health care debates in search of compromise, Dean has been calling for a bare knuckle fight. In December, he launched the health care is it a “choice” for consumer companies, and said the legislative act should be “billed” because it was too expensive and not real reform.

That earned him a rebuke from the White House. Senior adviser David Axelrod characterized Dean's criticism as “unproductive in a bunch of enormous, unconstructive” and said that for Barack to undermine the push toward health reform would be “a trap, trap, outcome.”

Dean has usually stood his ground. For months, he has called on Democrats to stop recommending Republican demands and pass a health care plan using reconciliation, a parliamentary procedure that requires only 51 votes in the Senate, rather than the 60 needed to block a Republican filibuster.

“There would have had the health care bill done a long time ago,” Dean told ABC News on January 18. “We would have gone through reconciliation.”

New York bipartisan talks stalled, Democrats are finally moving toward reconciliation as a way to pass health care. Is “the Beltway” finally listening to Dr. Dean?

Dean, where the odds in Vermont, Dr. Deborah Berke believes the answer is yes. “It's really a testament to how strongly people feel about how, that his opinion matters and is

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REIMBURSEMENT SYSTEM UNFAIR

I don't mean to burn fuel on the fire with this, but I would like to weigh in on the issue of legislative pay. The system is convoluted and unwieldy, and designed to (as far as I can tell) cover costs for out-of-towners while sheltering lawmakers who live closer to Montpelier. The "per diem" is a day rate that is pegged to the federal rate — not something lawmakers set themselves. The weekly pay (both no benefits) is the lowest in the country and represents a 6 percent pay cut this year.

I don't know a legislator of my party who serves for the money. This is a 34.5-day a year job, with a two- or three-month job layover process every two years. You have \$600 houses, and they call and email all the time. They have a lot to tell you and you learn a lot from them, but it takes time — not just from January to April, but all year long.

And for 16 weeks a year, representatives must go to Montpelier and make laws, and update laws, and enforce laws. That's the paid part of the job. The unpaid part is everything else. Once a year, it averages out to about \$5 to \$10 an hour (and that's including the per diem).

support for the on-campus gallery is pivotal to art education. Not only for students to gain experience in how to exhibit their work (let alone what to exhibit), but to expose students, art and otherwise, to the work of their peers and contemporaries.

But I must say that the lack of our living salaries by the university and gallery staff is a disgrace. When an UVM-employed receptionist does not know where you are, there is a problem, to say the least. This is an immense opportunity for marketing and art students to get together and learn how to promote an event. Send out email blasts for new shows, grant them and send them out to local shops, grant them and send them out to local shops. I'd say it's time for Guerrilla Marketing 101 to start at UVM.

James Hall
JACKSONVILLE

KIEP THE CUBANS

Re *"A Seven Days Reporter: Rauls Hoffmann Cuba Route Than Bettermore"* (January 27). In 1993, I visited my son-in-law in Cuba. He was studying film at the state film school south of Havana. I sat as a newspaper photographer and knew that I could legally go to Cuba

in a passport. I flew back to Montreal and crossed the border at Hightown Springs, told the U.S. agents where I had been, declared I had under \$100 of cigars, with receipts. They emptied out my car, confiscated the cigars and took me inside. I had them call up the actual state department rules on the Internet, which clearly state that journalists may travel in Cuba and may bring back up to \$100 of merchandise, cigars not included. They cheerfully brought my cigars out from a back room and let me go on my way. I believe the agents do know the rules, but because they know that ordinary citizens do not know the rules, they can get away with harassing them and confiscating their cigars or more or whatever, which they take back and consume as they relieve their easy border guard suspicions.

James Collins
SOMERVELL MASS

WAS JUD

I am not a Catholic (as you can probably tell from my name) but I find Ted Sagar's ad on page 7 of your February 17 issue very offensive. To change a

religious image of Jesus to be appears to be something ["Get Your Job in Here"] to "Kick Off the Lenten Season" is disrespectful. Would you run an ad that poses for at someone's race, gender, class, etc. if not, why religion?

Leslie Goldberg
MANSFIELD

NOTHING WRONG WITH NELLIGAN

I've seen the Harel Nelligan's ["Feet's Retreat," February 10] find that struck me as much as the apparent results of the race, the service and, above all, the frustration of the staff. It all created an unbearable

sensory of an escape from the reality of your bathroom when, every morning you look in the mirror.

Peter Miller
COLLEVILLE

NUCLEAR BETTER THAN COAL

Thanks for *Seven Days'* reporting in the February 17 issue on Vermont Nuclear. There's one glaring omission, though, in the approach to this story. It doesn't inform readers about the larger energy context. What we never hear about is discussion about nuclear energy as the most secure source of America's and energy plants have done and are continuing to do so. Massive costs, because our regulations, imposed by the super human power of atomic fusion, have locked onto the dark science of nuclear energy while ignoring the plant wide consequences of burning coal.

The tragedy is that America is responsible for such a large percentage of global carbon emissions, but the public perception seems to be that coal is a more benign way to power up all our favorite home gadgets and not nearly as destructive as our low energy. How can any thinking person continue to make this choice? Likewise, if we're truly concerned about Vermont's environment, we should also think about our daily car exhaust, the biggest source of pollution in the state. We can all do something about that. Let's get real.

Bill Dodge
BURLINGTON

COMMON MISPERCEPTION

I had to laugh at the war grapes as display from Vermont Governor's Rob Williams ["Feedback," February 3] in regard to Carly Rasmussen's article on college



Illustration: Tim

["We've Got News for You," January 27]. Aside

from Vermont Governor's own book (where one can learn of the secret "Northpole weapon" the U.S. military just used on Haiti to get their oil and gold), his fails to mention that his big beef with Green Mountains Daily is the fact that we published Second Vermont Republic's close ties with neo-Confederate organizations (which, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, SWV's lead guru Thomas Taylor has continued, unfortunately, even appearing on an owned white supremacist's talk show in the last few years).

When Mr. Williams himself was questioned about these things when they first came to light, his own response was that it was "none of his damn business." Apparently, the Vermont ideal he supposedly espoused at summit take a back seat to the "last cause."

As to the info provided by sunny news blogger "Thomas Rowley" (who, sadly, is not me, as Williams insists in his conspiracy minded rant), it was substantive enough to have Taylor be the subject of several articles on the SWV. On "Hate Watch" site, and Williams has not been able to refute any of what was revealed about the Vermont neo-Confederate movement, other than to denounce it as yet another conspiracy. It's important to remember when these people have gotten into bed with us we sit back and ooh and ahh over the novelty of neo-nazis.

John Ryan
PLAINFIELD

Ryan Niles at Green Mountains Daily and Five Before Noon.



If citizens think that lawmakers should not be paid, I'm open to the conversation. But to simply that accepting the per diem is universal is to miss a much bigger discussion — namely, what kind of compensation do we as a society think is fair for public service? From the letters, I'd guess the answer is, "Not much."

Bill Schlegel: I'm honored to be a state rep and have no sexual legislative election campaign.

Lu Schlegel
MONTPELIER

Schlegel is married to Rep. Tom Stevens.

HIDDEN GALLERY

First, I would like to thank you for the story on the Galleries Gallery ["Here When If You Can Find It," February 10]. Speaking as a former art student myself,

Power

the real ones. Slow permitting isn't the issue, Smith says. She believes what's making trouble for windmill developers is lack of community involvement in the projects, poorly written permit applications, along with failure to address neighbors' concerns, and worries about effects on environmental and public health.

Smith cites several problems with the screwable energy ball as written. First, he notes, it transfers appeals to authority from judges with expertise on environmental matters to utility regulators. Second, it eliminates rules dictating the notification of sharing landowners and local planning commissions before "not towers" go up in their towns, and gives the public less time to comment on these projects. Finally, it requires citizens to bear "qualified expense" to present evidence of the environmental harm our towers could cause.

"When a technology is failing to see real, there are reasons," says Smith, who notes that's not "any wind." "If it's a good project, it will succeed. If it's a bad project, it will fail."

Lawrence Mori is chairman of Renewable Energy Vermont, a business trade group of green power systems manufacturers. He disagrees with Smith and says combi-boilers permitting has everything to do with why Vermonters don't use wood burners and solar arrays all over.

†Practical scores are able to effectively



move renewables forward because permitting is very uncertain," says Mann, who is director of New Generation Partners, a developer of "modular" renewable energy projects based in Bristol. "When you have lack of certainty, investors won't enter into an option dollars there."

Most agree there's a huge windfall awaiting any state that can rapidly grow a green power industry. Energy produced in Vermont creates local jobs, attracts investment and circulates dollars in state, he says. With the prospect of Vermont Yankee closing on the horizon, Blodgett says, Vermont should move aggressively to fill the void with new generation power sources.

"We've said no to the Senate" to Vermont Yankee, Mitt says. "Now we need to say yes to something, and that ME is about saying yes to renewable energy."

Dean 4874

health care," says Ruchire, a leading health care reform advocate in Vermont. "That caused a lot more pause about this national health care reform, and I think a lot of that was due to Howard Dean. I do think he's got a lot of respect out there."

Despite Dean's grassroots appeal, Rogan says there are many in Washington who "wince" at the mention of his name.

"They're winning because what Howard Dean is doing is holding people accountable," Ryan says. "He doesn't mince words. His ability to speak clearly, concisely, and fearlessly is his strength."

Observers of Dean suggest that his position as an outsider has led him to speak his mind, but no longer beholden to constituents, voters or powerful Democratic establishment forces.

"He doesn't have to pander to any particular group," says Richter. "He can really say the honest truth."

Sen. Bernie Sanders seemed to be knowledgeable as much as a February 20 interview on the MSNBC show "Countdown." Sanders called Dean's criticisms of the

health bill "comprehensive" and said his fellow Vermonters "make good parents."

"On the other hand, as a United States senator, a member of Congress, I've got to deal with the reality that there are a lot of people who desperately need health insurance and that has to be taken into consideration," Sanders said. "We've got to all deal with the reality that if this bill goes down, what does it mean politically in this country? When is the next time the legislation is going to come up?"

Ironically, some of the measures Dean's fighting for in the health care bill wouldn't affect Vermont. For instance, the state has already expanded Medicaid eligibility well beyond what the federal legislation would allow. Richter says. It also has a "community rating" system that prevents insurance companies from cherry-picking the healthiest individuals. The system spreads risk out evenly so healthy people in the pool pay the same premiums as sicker ones.

Who originated many of these new
edits? Howard Dean. ☐

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Prolific Burlington Designer Gets Barbara Small Award

BY ALICE LEWITT

WHEN FRANK HOWARD started **ARTWORK** in 1982, he was not looking for a career, but rather for a casual chat with his old friend, the **VERMONT PUBLIC TELEVISION** station, about "itself." He had some news to break: He had nominated himself for the eighth annual Barbara Small Award administered by **BURLINGTON CITY ARTS**. When he heard the news, he said, "I really didn't feel I was qualified."

Howard obviously thought differently. "They let me prove it myself to the art community in general and through participation in several community arts events," he wrote in his nomination letter to the BCCA.

Small was introduced to the

2008 recipient of the Barbara Small Award on February 16 at the opening of the **FINCHHOUSE GALLERY**'s first rent exhibit, "This World, Other World." The piece, "A thousand dollars and one of BCCA's efforts" — including the print and clay studies and dark room — for a year.

On the surface, Small, a graphic designer, also seems an unlikely choice for the annual prize, which was founded by the family and friends of a respected Vermont artist who died in 2001. But Howard knew Small's patterns or sculptures, but just's recipient, Josh Small, is a true artist. Yet Small's graphic artwork is a familiar sight to his

black, white, and blue designs, which he signs at Holly Leung and Kate Town and the gallery materials for groups such as the **BARRETT MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL** and local craft fairs. They also adorn such food products as **Reggie Iggy and Chocoma** from Vermont ice cream sandwiches.

While some award winners present a fully realized, Small's surprise seems genuine. "It was nice, and I'm honored," he says during an interview at his Church Street studio. "They gave me \$1000 because I'm a good guy or something."

But — who occasionally visits up his

mother's John and son of the **Chesham Elementary** and has designed projects for many local nonprofits — is a good guy but he's not sure how he had a hole in his head to do with winning. His first was created at New York's **Studio of Visual Arts** with a concentration in illustration and design. He's supported himself as a designer since starting in Vermont in the '70s, while his paintings have helped make his name in the local art scene.

In 2008, the **Finchhouse** hosted a show of Small's abstract architectural paintings at the **Second Floor Gallery**. The mostly black and white works are based on quick pencil studies in their sketch pad. The **Finchhouse**, an edge-of-city space, was created to capture a city's diverse world, all or not for it. The painter

ART



THEY GAVE ME \$1000 BECAUSE I'M A GOOD GUY OR SOMETHING.

ANTHONY SUNI

using some of his final drawings for a class at BCCA, where he'll leave a new self as a dropout artist or biographer. The hall is his design business, which gives him a chance to revisit and refine some of his earlier artwork — the luxury he appreciates of having decades of work to go back to. And perhaps he'll have a good long time to make new work.

Small's sketches at the thought that the Small award is intended for a "maverick" one. "Maverick? I like that," he says. "But, I'll live it out."

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A Siren Dager editor observed recently that, while most sections of the *Burlington Free Press* have been shrinking, one section has been growing in recent months: the death notices and obituary pages.

Several phone calls confirmed that this phenomenon isn't isolated to Vermont's largest daily. The *Rare Magazine*, *Times-Argus*, and *Island* should both report updates on their deaths and death notices in January and February WTP. Do more people shuffle off this mortal coil in the dead of winter than during warmer months? And, if so, which months are the deadliest?

We've all heard the old wives' tale that fall means outside with an increase in births, murders and psychiatric patients showing up in emergency rooms. This notion persists despite the lack of evidence to support it. Experts also say it's not true that baby booms occur more months after major disasters, such as the New York City blackout of 1977 or the attacks of 9/11.

But not all seasonal fluctuations are illusory. National birth records confirm that August and September see the least out months for obstetricians and labor-and-delivery nurses. The likely culprit: Cold weather canceling.

And January is the grim reaper's busiest month, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. (Birth and death patterns are reversed down under.) Anecdotally, those who work in the American "death business" report that business slows whenever the mercury drops, says Josh Slocum of the Bereavement Consumers Alliance in South Burlington. (Ghosts may also receive additional visits in the warm weather approaches. Why? Many Vermont burials are postponed until the ground thaws.)

What's behind this midwinter die-off? One might assume that modern amenities such as indoor plumbing, central heat and 24-hour supermarkets would



WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

We just had to ask .

Are certain months deadlier than others?

BY KEN PICARD

everyone nature's annual head-thriving.

Accidents don't explain it. You're nearly 10 times more likely to die of a tractor mishap in September than in February, and nine times more likely to die in a train crash in May than in January. While more house fires occur in the winter than in the summer, they represent a small fraction of the overall mortality picture.

Nor are icy roads the culprit. Statistically, you're more likely to get crushed by a semi in the summer or fall, when more drivers are on the road

In fact, January and February post the fewest sales traveled during the year. Strathairn motorcycle fatalities peak from July through September and bottom out from December through February when most Harleys are in hibernation.

That said, you're more likely to die in a car wreck on any holiday weekend, regardless of the temperature outside. The top two days of the year to not sit behind the wheel are July 4 (No. 1) and July 3 (No. 2). For pedestrians, however, the deadliest day on average is January 1. It also ranks fifth for overall deaths, in part because of the sheer quantity of booze garded on New Year's Eve.

And, last but not forget, winter 'tis the season for lightning, which explains why suicides peak from November through January. Researcher also note depression can contribute to deaths from alcohol poisoning, drug overdoses, and other household and workplace accidents.

For more important as a cause of mid-winter exposures, though, is the scurvy association between contagious disease — which tends to claim the oldest, sickest and frailest among us — and cold weather. Respiratory illnesses such as influenza, tuberculosis and whooping cough all peak in December, when most people are indoors swapping germs. Other diseases and chronic conditions can be exacerbated by the cold.

Which brings us to an interesting finding about the most deadly time of month. The *New England Journal of Medicine* published a study several years ago describing a "boundary effect." The first week of any month sees an abrupt increase in deaths over the last week of the preceding month.

Why? The beginning of the month is often associated with unpleasant events, such as bill payments, lease renewals and apartment searches. Moreover, many federal benefits, such as social security welfare payments and military benefits,

arrive at the beginning of the month, permitting more discretionary spending on drugs and alcohol.

The researchers found that, in discretionary income dropped toward month's end, so do drug and alcohol-related deaths. The "boundary effect" also applies to deaths by homicide, suicide or accident.

What about the deadliest days of the week? We know heart attacks peak on Mondays — one more reason to call in sick that day — and drunk driving fatalities are most common on Friday and Saturday nights.

If all this grim news isn't enough to keep you in bed until spring, here's some food for thought: In 2000, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* published a study suggesting that your life span beyond the age of 80 may depend on the month in which you were born. What?

Yes, researchers studying populations in Austria and Denmark found that people who were born from October through December tended to live longer than those born from April through June. The researchers concluded that "seasonal life expectancy" after age 80 "appears to depend on factors that act on the embryo or early in infancy and that increase susceptibility to diseases later in life." Curiously, the study was based on how winter babies fare versus summer ones.

One plausible explanation for the results: The populations studied by the researchers were born many decades ago, when seasonally inadequate nutrition was still common enough to cause lower average birth weights in those who gestated over the winter.

Shh, I'm glad I'm a Libra. ☺



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BY
LAUREN
OBER

THE 20/20 CHALLENGE

ONE SNOWBOARDER'S QUEST TO HIT 20 VERMONT RESORTS IN 20 WEEKS

It's not every state where you can call up an Olympic gold medalist and ask to go snowboarding or skiing with him or her. In fact, it's not most states. But here in Vermont, we enjoy unprecedented access to the celebrities among us, be they lawmakers or filmmakers, authors or athletes.

So when I emailed snowboard legend Ross Powers asking if he'd be willing to show me around his home mountain of Okemo, I shouldn't have been surprised when his answer was an enthusiastic "yes."

Towers, a 32-year-old father of two, took home Olympic bronze in the halfpipe from the Nagano Winter Games in 1998, but he is best known for capturing the gold in the same event four years later in Salt Lake City. When he won the gold, he was 25, practically preteen in snowboarding years. Recently Towers made a run at the Vancouver Winter Games in snowboard cross, a sport he only began to pursue a year ago. He ended up as an alternate for the U.S. team this time.

As professional snowboarders go, Ross the Bear is about as unassuming as they come. His pants don't look like they were made for a giant, and his jacket isn't flashy or loud. On the day we rode, he looked like the Johnny Cash of snowboarding: dressed nearly helmet to boots in black. Powers is so modest about his accomplishments that I didn't realize Glenn's supertrape and snowboard cross came were named after him until I realized by a sign bearing his name.

As we mugged our way up to the 5395-foot summit of Oromo Mountain — we had to take three different lifts because of wind issues — Petersen and I chatted about his

long career in the sport. He first got into snowboarding 25 years ago and showed an aptitude for it from an early age.

By 35, Powers was competing on pro events. By 38, he owned his own condo, traveled the world competing and lived a relatively glamorous life, compared with his early days in Londonderry. Today his two decades on the board are evident in his fluid, effortless riding style.

At the top of the Glades Park Quail, we headed down Elmwood, a bumpy main street offscouring from a recent dump. Following Okuma's official "nonresident ambassador" down a road wasn't easy. He crisscrossed it, flying over anything that resembled a jump. He stuck too close, I'd get a mouthful of snow if I strayed too far behind. I'd lose sight of him as he dipped into little pockets of powder at road's edge.

I asked him if he wanted to move down it, but he declined. I think he was nervous. Like, nervous that I might rape him.

At the end of our day, though, we did throw in one on Hot Dog Hill, the children's terrain park. Had our girls been engaged, Powers might have lost.

After I bade him good afternoon, I drove north on Route 100 in another

of Vermont's fine ski areas. Bear Creek, which bills itself as an "exclusive" country club for skiing and riding, I figured I'd hit two birds in one shot. I figured wrong.

The former Round Top Ski Area was quasi-private for the past few years, meaning that nonmembers could not hike or ride trails by permission. As of this year, it is entirely open to anyone that the nonmembers, not even very important visitors, can hike a few trails on the club's premiere hill. Despite pleading with the general manager, I was not allowed to snowboard on any of the club's lift trails. On the day I went, the lifts weren't even running. At present, West Creek is only open to members on weekdays.

Even though I didn't get to make it to Bear Creek, I'm counting it for my paper. And I'm keeping my fingers crossed that none of the remaining resorts decide to go private before I'm finished. Fourteen down, six to go. ☺

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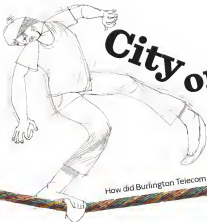
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| ✓ Whitton Valley - 02-13 | ✓ Killington - 12-06 | ✓ No Exit Ski Area | ✓ Stratton |
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City on Wire

How did Burlington Telecom become a high-stakes balancing act?

by Kevin J. Kelley

Ten years ago, on Town Meeting Day 2000, Burlington voters authorized the first \$6 million in bonds to create Burlington Telecom. City leaders promised that a state-of-the-art, publicly owned cable, Internet and telephone network would be cheaper and provide better service than its out-of-state competitors. At that time, they were Adelphia Cable, which is now owned by Comcast, and Verizon, which has since sold its landline business to Paltelnet.

Burlington Telecom has mostly delivered on the promise, but it has come at a massive cost. Today, BT is fighting for its life. The enterprise is on the verge of a loan default that could leave Burlington taxpayers in the hole for \$17 million, and potentially as much as \$50 million. That could do a number on the city's credit rating — and perhaps, the state of Vermont's as well.

What fueled a progressive municipal experiment — that has inspired many other communities to consider creating similar telecom systems — into a train wreck?

The names of two disapproving men — Jonathan Leopold and Tim Nulty — are on the lips of the state regulators, city officials, legislators and citizens who are trying to untangle the mess.

The most talked-about development

is that Leopold, the city's chief administrative officer, chose to violate state regulations by pumping \$17 million in taxpayer money into BT over the course of two fiscal years. The violation began in early 2008 and continues weren't directly limited about the extent of the problem until May 2009.

But Leopold claims he inherited voting problems from Nulty, BT's founding father and first general manager. Leopold and BT general manager Chris Burns maintain that Nulty grossly mismanaged the enterprise during his five-year tenure. BT was "very badly off financially" when Nulty resigned in October 2003, Leopold says, necessitating a rescue operation that he and Burns have since been struggling to carry out in the midst of a historic recession. The \$17 million had to be borrowed from city coffers to pay bills because BT could not get private financing at a time of panic in the credit markets, Leopold says.

Nulty insists that BT was in good financial shape when he left and that Leopold and Burns incompetently steered it off a cliff. A combination of incompetence and shadecraft accounts for the crackup, Nulty charges, describing Burns as "a poor manager" and accusing Leopold of using taxpayer funds that BT didn't actually need.

Who's telling the truth?

Players not directly associated with either the Nulty or Leopold camps say both are to blame, to some degree, for what happened to BT. Those passing such judgments include former Mayor Peter Clavelle, who served as BT's endwife, former City Council President Kurt Wright, who received confidential BT reports from Leopold as chairman of the city's board of finance, and members of citizens' committees created to give advice to Burlington Telecom.

"Everybody has dirt on their hands," declares Dan Schultz, a Progressive who serves as a BT advisory committee. Schultz includes the city council in that assessment. He notes the council received increasingly negative financial reports from Leopold throughout 2007 and 2008, "that they weren't concerned." Schultz says the data were "misrepresented and councils in didn't have the expertise to deal with it."

If You Build It, Well...

BT's problems are said to have originated with a massive error in the cost of constructing the city-owned fiber optic network that today delivers landline phone service, high-speed Internet links and cable television to about 4200 Burlington households and businesses. The build-out's price tag was

initially estimated at \$22 million. The technologically advanced system, which has yet to reach about 15 percent of city homes, will ultimately cost at least \$45 million to complete, Leopold figures.

All the while it was overspending its anticipated expenses, BT was under-achieving on the revenue side, Leopold adds. He says the number of subscribers was 25 percent below what had been projected for late 2007, producing a \$1.3 million shortfall in BT's anticipated revenues. In the month prior to Nulty's exit, Burlington Telecom recorded a \$200,000 net cash operating deficit, according to detailed sets of financial data that Leopold provided during an interview in his office last week. A statement of red ink was creating and threatening to wash away BT, the Leopold-Burns narrative suggests.

In fact, one only has to look at the city's financial report for 2007 — the one handed out to voters on Town Meeting Day — to see that Burlington Telecom owed \$6 million to the so-called "cash-pool" at the time, and had roughly \$300,000 in accounts receivable. Likewise, in a report to the city's board of finance in November 2007, Leopold explained that BT's capital expenses had been underestimated by \$3.5 million — for that year alone.

Nulty, an accountant who has worked

for the U.S. Congress and the World Bank, rejects all of Leopold's figures as well as the finding of the Blue Ribbon Committee assigned to assess the BT situation, which places the price of the build-out overrun at \$15 million. Nulty says the cost of building BT's network was only a couple of million dollars more than had been calculated, mainly due to the high price of the novel work required to bring fiber to hundreds of households. Burns, who was then in charge of engineering, overrode the build-out, Nulty notes. "Chris never said anything about overruns," he says.

The enterprise did sustain a \$4.5 million loss of potential revenues due to Adolphus Cable's nine-month state-level battle to prevent BT from becoming a competitor. Nulty notes that BT was nonetheless poised to become profitable when he left, Nulty adds, calling it an "impressive performance for a startup."

Leopold is trying about BT's finances, Nulty contends. "This guy is under a criminal investigation that alleges 'of course he's going to try to smear his predecessor'."

Nulty leveled similar charges as a former board member of Central Vermont Community Fiber Network, Nulty's current telecom project. As vice-



president, questions began to arise about similarities to BT. Nulty clarified for his bosses: "The problems in Burlington are not problems with the economics of BT itself, but of alleged bungled or improper behavior by the city administration."

Leopold calls Nulty's accusation that he could face a jail term "an incredibly ugly smear that has nothing to do with the facts." Nulty has no evidence that Leopold is a target of the criminal probe

recently initiated by the state, the city's top financial officer says.

Nulty adds, "I had made the kind of shambles of BT that Leopold says I did, why would I now be offering to put up my own money to try to save the thing?" Nulty is part of a recently formed nine-member group calling itself Reboot BT that has told Koss it can rescue BT from bankruptcy if it is put in sole charge of the business. Members also say they are willing to assist in the bailout. Koss has neither accepted nor rejected the "Gang of Nine's" offer.

Guilt by Association?

The blame game between Leopold and Nulty explains a lot about what went wrong at BT that others are implicated, too. In a report to the city council in December 2000—six weeks after Nulty's resignation—Leopold had warned that "the business and financial model we have been working with and the underlying assumptions behind it are not viable and have not been achieved."

LEOPOLD CLAIMS HE INHERITED VEXING PROBLEMS FROM BT'S FOUNDING FATHER AND FIRST GENERAL MANAGER. HE MAINTAINS THAT TIM NULTY GROSSLY MISMANAGED THE ENTERPRISE DURING HIS FIVE-YEAR TENURE.

Fears of an impending crisis were never communicated to BT's own management team then or in subsequent months, says Jeremy Pettie, who oversaw the enterprise's technical side for eight years until his resignation last June. "If we were running a deficit such as that, it wasn't communicated to us until pretty much a year after Nulty had left," Pettie recounts. "We would have been told to button down all expenses, and we weren't told that."

In that same report to the council, Leopold noted that the budget-hitting capital expenditures had enabled BT to make its network available to 15,500 Burlington households—2030 more than had been projected. The build-out is 90 percent complete, Leopold told the council then, using a figure that has since been revised to 85 percent.

In addition to aggressively marketing itself to these 15,500 households BT should have been seeking opportunities outside Burlington, Nulty argues. He notes that the system's techno "hub" on lower Church Street was designed to accommodate many more lookups than Burlington alone could ever supply.

THIS GUY IS UNDER A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION THAT COULD POSSIBLY PUT HIM IN JAIL. OF COURSE HE'S GOING TO TRY TO SMEAR HIS PREDECESSOR.

TIM NULTY, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER, BURLINGTON TELECOM

By 2000, several towns around the state were inspired by BT's seemingly successful model to consider opening their own fiber wires, and were actively receptive to looking into the Burlington hub.

But Mayor Bob Kiss rejected that option, saying that BT should complete its own build-out before prospecting for business outside the city. Nulty called Kiss' veto a "huge mistake" and said it in 2007 as the key cause for his decision to leave BT. Kiss has since reversed his stance. Even though the Burlington network isn't such closer to completion today than it was in 2000, Kiss now suggests that salvation for BT lies partly in finding partners in other municipalities.

Nulty maintains that BT could be profitable, "if it were well managed," solely by tapping the Burlington customer base. "Getting outside customers would be icing on the cake."

Marketing was another weakness BT wouldn't be dying with financial calamity today if Burns and Leopold had implemented a ready-to-roll advertising campaign, says former BT marketing chief Richard Denness. Formerly a member of the Gang of Nine, by the end of 2000, Burlington Telecom had recorded a roughly 30 percent "take rate." Denness calculates, referring to the proportion of potential customers who had signed up for services. A series of rooftops and a door-to-door salesperson drive had been planned in conjunction with Meridian, a Burlington marketing firm, with the



goal of raising the take rate to 50 percent, Denness reveals.

Even if only 40 percent were persuaded to sign up, BT would have about 3000 additional subscribers today, with resulting revenues large enough to ensure "there wouldn't be this crisis now," Denness says.

The marketing pitch was to have a "topical" sign, with Burlington Telecom explaining its identity as a homegrown, community-controlled entity—in contrast to BT's privately owned competitor Comcast, a conglomerate based in Philadelphia. "The marketing campaign was about branding BT and aligning it with a set of shared values," says Denness, who now works for Efficiency Vermont, an energy-conservation utility.

But the marketing plan was thwarted by Burns and Leopold, he adds. They wanted to focus on closing deals with likely customers rather than reaching out to the broad base of prospective customers, Denness explains. The Burns-Leopold decision to kill the marketing campaign was "off the reservation of rationality," Nulty adds. "It made no sense."

For his part, Burns says Denness "had the ability to market as he chose." He claims Denness was Nulty about the plan and his own performance. "It was hard to get an understanding of how many calls were being made, how many calls there were," Burns recalls saying, too, that Nulty "never created a formal sales team."

Kiss says BT should have been striving harder to sign up Burlington businesses—an approach favored by Burns. The mayor estimates that only about 250 businesses—out of 2000—are currently BT customers.

Such a priority would be misplaced and would also squander scarce resources, argues Patria, the former operations chief. "The whole reason for BT was to serve Burlington residents," Patria says, resulting from dissatisfied homeowners' wars with Adelphia. Besides, he adds, "There's a lot of

competition in Burlington for the business telecom market."

But Craig Scoville, a California-based consultant to municipal telecom operations around the country, says such publicly controlled networks succeeded only if they sign up large businesses and institutions. The "volume"—or turnover rate—is too high among residential customers to ensure financial stability. Scoville says

"You're in a world of hurt if you rely only on households," he says.

Donnelly adds that he tried again in 2004 to launch a marketing campaign. It also "failed," he says, because Burns and Leopold "weren't responsive to it and lacked understanding of marketing in general." The two were by then "totally focused on other things," Donnelly says.

The Blue Ribbon Committee as well as outside consultants have noted that BT has never been marketed effectively. All concerned that the program reads a vision — and ends — in order to succeed. "I get three, four, five, six pieces from Comcast every week at home and at my office," says former City Councilor Andy Merrill. "All I get from BT is my monthly bill."

Managing Risk

Management decisions have contributed to BT's woes. Former workgroup members suffered when Nally left, Burns took over as general manager, and Leopold got directly and deeply involved.

"The new management wanted to give BT a much more corporate structure," Patria says, explaining that involved "the compartmentalization of everything," "was isolating, and 'the sense of it being a team effort was lost.'" Burns' style left many BT employees with "the feeling that it was just a job, nothing more," Patria says. "And that's particularly dangerous for a startup."

Jacqueline Griffin, a former customer service representative, agrees that under Griffin, Burns II was made to feel like an hourly employee. There was no communication at all. "If she sought to talk with Burns about some issue, she would be referred to someone else in management," Griffin adds. "It was just circle talk," she says.

Nally, by contrast, "was part as planner that could want to do anything for the guy," Griffin declares. "He was also extremely focused on customers."

Burns loudly built business in BT's office. Donnelly points out, Doors that Nally had removed were put back in place when Burns took over. Donnelly says "It was a nice touch," Burns says in response. "And they were only half doors, wood on the bottom and glass on top."

When Griffin announced last July that she was quitting, Leopold recalled her in his office for a chat, she recalls. "He was asking me why, and then he started correcting my grammar," Griffin says. "I was thinking, 'God, you're such a jerk!'"

A big problem plaguing BT from its inception, many sources say, has been the absence of expert oversight. As Patria puts it, "No one at city hall had

Too-Risky Business?

BY ART WOLF

Well, that's another five years you're getting into

— OLIVER HARDY

There are two things that should concern us about the fact that Burlington Telecom has gotten the taxpayers of Burlington into. One is how it happened. The other is how to get out of it.

It's not just the benefit of hindsight that tells us the City of Burlington should not have become involved in the risky capital-intensive task of providing telecom management services to the residents and businesses of the city. Rather, it's the simple insight that the government should provide some services, and that others are best provided by the private sector.

The key functions of government are to provide services that are not adequately provided by the private sector — a legal system to protect people and property, police and defense services, roads and sidewalks, clean air, to name a few of what economists broadly term "public goods." When the government starts providing services that the private sector can and does provide — including, in BT's case, telecom management services — it must take on the risks and problems that firms in the private sector confront all the time.

These include how to engineer, design and produce the product; how to market it; how to finance it; and how to manage the people and capital involved to produce it. In a nutshell, these all involve risks and rewards. The reward for doing all of these successfully is a profit. The risk is losing all or part of your investment, and failure or bankruptcy.

Burlington Telecom failed at nearly all of these. Management underestimated the costs of hooking up all businesses and residences to the fiber optic system it wanted to build. It failed to do a good job marketing its product to customers who had other provider choices. It overpaid for many of the products and services it bought from suppliers. Its business plan failed to anticipate ways to enhance revenues. Its financing was solely based on debt, with no contingency for raising more capital. These are all very real, very common problems that businesses in the private sector face every day.

In Burlington, the prevailing argument is that the

private sector brings benefits to people by creating jobs — but that's about the only benefit from businesses. Businesses also earn profits and, without profits, which may seem to have no social benefit, prices would be lower. It's just a short leap to conclude that if the government can easily provide the same service, it might as well deliver those services at a lower price to the city's residents than profit-seeking firms offer.

The problem is that nothing is that free of increasing debts with risks or what happens if the business plan needs to be quickly adapted to changing circumstances. In the worst case, what happens if the business plan fails? Who gets stuck holding the bill?

With BT, there was no need for, or thought about, entering private equity (read that as profits) into the mix of financing. The city would just borrow \$12 million, build a state-of-the-art fiber optic system, and Burlington customers would benefit from low prices and high quality. What could be simpler?

Unfortunately, building and running a business is not simple. And the risks of running a business — as Burlington taxpayers are soon to find out — can be large. At a minimum, let's hope a lesson is learned from this experience.

Looking forward, what should the city do? Both consultant reports and the Blue Ribbon Committee came to the same conclusion. The only solution, short of city taxpayers absorbing more money than BT, is to look for a private sector partner to put its capital at risk, and therefore to share in any potential future BT profits.

No partner is likely to absorb the entire debt BT that BT has incurred — the original \$12 million plus the \$17 million BT has borrowed from the city. That means someone is going to be left holding \$27 million worth of paper that's not worth \$17 million.

In finance jargon, someone is going to have to take a haircut. There will, no doubt, be a protracted legal battle over who that someone is. Most likely it will be the taxpayers of Burlington who will pay the price of getting out of this fixer mess.

F Art Wolf is an associate professor of economics at the University of Vermont. He was state economist for Governor Madeleine Kunin and is currently the Vermont Economy Newsletter. He can be reached at art.wolf@uvm.edu.

OPINION

any background in running a telecom operation?"

Schultz, a member of a citizens' advisory committee for BT, says the group never got the information it needed from Leopold and Burns to make meaningful assessments of its financial situation. "It became much more sensitive after Nally left," Schultz says. "When he was in charge we felt we had access to information—or at least seemed to have access." Schultz says he was "very frustrated" by Burns' approach, suggesting, "It was a very serious mistake to hire an engineer to manage BT." Despite his frustration, Schultz says he has stayed involved with the advisory committee "out of loyalty to the Progressives."

A commission should have been established to oversee BT in the same way that these citizens' panels monitor the performance of city departments such as Burlington Electric, says Schultz, echoing the view of Democrats on the city council. "It's not a transparent system without a commission," says Ed Adrian, a Ward 1 Democrat who led the council's charge against Leopold's handling of BT's finances.

Wright and other Republicans joined Progressives on the city council in upping a commission structure for BT. There were already two citizens' groups watching BT, Wright says. And he and other council members were constantly warned by Leopold of the importance of keeping some BT financial information out of the public domain due to fears that Comcast would use it to steal customers, Wright adds.

The concept underpinning BT may itself be seriously flawed, Adrian says. He notes that Burlington Electric is able to function well financially because it enjoys a monopoly. Every home and business in Burlington must buy BEI's electricity. "You can't have a non-monopoly utility model and expect it to do well in an environment of competitive telecom," Adrian says. He adds that marketing BT as an ideologically attractive entity may not prove effective. "Most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about the social consequences of signing up with a particular telecom provider," Adrian argues. "They're mainly concerned about service and price."

Civic duty might not be a great selling point these days, especially since BT has become a huge tax liability for the city—and its citizens. The except? Despite all of BT's difficulties, almost everyone in this issue acknowledges it's a technologically superior network. They also agree it can be successful. But how? Kras doesn't easily inspire confidence. Even the iPhone, the major products. "It's going to work out!" ☐

Don't Trash Burlington Telecom

BY JOHN FRANCO

What's wrong with Burlington Telecom? The root of the problem is the \$18,000-per-customer investment in its fiber optic-to-the-home system. The funds necessary to service this capital investment are well beyond the level of per-subscriber revenue that BT or any other system could reasonably expect to generate. It's like having bought one month's house for the family budget. This is a structural problem—the business "can't," if you will—that needs to be solved if BT is to survive.

How did BT get into this jam? There is plenty of blame to go around.

Former BT manager Tom Nally's estimates of the capital investment required for the system proved to have been way off from the beginning. His original 2006 estimate of \$22 million was spent by January 2007. The additional \$15 million financing secured in August 2007 was gone by Halloween. BT was already into the city's pencil mark, and the system still wasn't completed. **Scit Mr Nally**

To add insult to injury, in 2008 the capital markets started to freeze up due to the financial crisis, making another refinancing impossible.

The Kras administration compounded this problem by quietly self-financing BT with more dollars from the city cash pool in hopes the capital markets would improve. I say "quietly" because this was done with the tacit understanding of the city council's finance board—whose members included former Republican and Democratic mayoral candidates Kurt Wright and Andy Merrill—in what could be described as a "don't ask, don't tell" agreement.

Reports to the finance board, budgets approved by the city council and audited financial statements all showed what was going on. It was just that nobody on the inside was advertising the fact. Meanwhile, BT got deeper and deeper into the cash pool. On December 17, 2007, the Kras administration did report to the city council that construction costs were over estimate and BT needed a whole new business plan. But it was not until May 2009 that the administration finally initiated a full-blown discussion with the city council about the problem of BT's high investment per customer, and the fact that it was out of compliance with the Certificate of Public Good conditions imposed upon it by the Public

Service Board. That should have happened in early 2008, shortly after Nally left the stage and before its self-financing began in earnest.

Which leads us to the third part of the blame. In their bloodthirsty war with old-schoolers with the Progressives that date back to Bruce Sanders' upset victory in 1993, the city council Democrats led a withering campaign against BT that went on for months, seemingly as if BT's own survival depended on it. This was an over-the-top campaign that BT's own startup budget, the \$3.6 million. Comcast's consultants expressed amazement that BT could even function in this climate.

Public Service Department Commissioner David O'Brien, a Republican, has had a strong supporting role in the BT backlash. His goal, apparently, is to let BT's windup hold, to teach Burlington a lesson for the sin of public ownership. Only when BT failed to make its February base-purchase payment did some city councilors finally start to sober up to the financial consequences of the destruction they thought they wanted.

So, what's the solution?

To reduce that \$18,000-per-customer debt ratio, the Kras Commission recommended strategic partnering to substantially increase the customer base—both inside and outside Burlington—or to reduce the amount of embedded debt, or both. The second of the two charter changes authorizing Burlington to enter into the telecommunications field contemplates just such partnering. Precedent is found elsewhere, with the McNeil Generating Station, its ownership is shared jointly by Burlington Electric and several-owned utilities.

But, for a constructive solution to emerge, the winning bid will have to end now, especially those of Commissioner O'Brien. Otherwise, the financial and economic consequences of failure will be nothing short of catastrophic, not only to Burlington and its taxpayers but also to the state. Vermont's civic credit rating is significantly affected by that of its largest city.

John Franco is former chair of the Burlington Electric Commission. As president, city voters under former Mayor Dennis Sanders re-imposed Burlington as its first Public Service Board jurisdiction for a municipally owned cable television system.

CAN GOOGLE SAVE BURLINGTON TELECOM?

Google is getting into the telecom biz—the company recently announced plans to develop fiber networks in one or more test markets, to that would "deliver internet speeds at least ten times faster than what most Americans now access to today over 1 gigabit per second. Fiber to the home connections." Google is working applications from municipalities interested in participating in its program by March 15. Mayor Dick Rutledge told WCAZ that the partnership would likely not solve the financial issues BT is facing, but the "break-even for Google's Fiber program will be reached in nearly 200 years, which seems like the limit." The city is taking a public meeting to talk about the potential Google partnership on Thursday, March 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Burlington City Hall Auditorium.

Bench Mark

Vermont's first female federal judge raises the bar for judicial appointments

BY KEN PICARD

When Christina Reiss was nominated for the U.S. district court seat vacated by Judge J. Garvan Murtha, she had no ties to Vermont's congressional delegation, the Obama administration or the Democratic Party. In fact, she'd never even met Sen. Patrick Leahy until their first face-to-face interview last year.

That may not sound like a big deal, until you consider that vacancies on the federal bench occur so infrequently—

Judge Murtha's was only the 19th in Vermont's history—that they're often treated as political plum, doled out to party faithful and those whose ideological tendencies are well known.

That certainly wasn't the case for Judge Reiss (pronounced "rice"), who was sworn in on January 10 as the first woman to serve on the federal bench in Vermont. In fact, another notable feature of her appointment was the transparent and nonpartisan nature of the nomination process. With such transparency came a first in Vermont history: Reiss' selection stands in stark contrast to eight years of very publicized judicial appointments by the Bush administration.

"One thing I have to credit Senator Leahy for," says Reiss, "is that he gained no political advantage by appointing me. And I'd have to say the same thing about Governor Douglas." The Republican Vermont governor appointed Reiss to state district court in 2004.

Indeed, Reiss' track record as an attorney and state judge offers few clues to what kind of federal judge she'll be. But those who know her insist that her personal politics won't play a role. In fact, practically the only prediction anyone has made about her opinions from the federal bench is that they'll be scrupulously researched, well reasoned, and firmly grounded in precedent and the rule of law.

Reiss isn't a native Vermonter—she was born in Denver, Colo., in 1962—but she has been here since the early 1980s.

She got her bachelor's degree from St. Michael's College in 1984 and her law degree from the University of Arizona in 1989. Reiss, 42, lives in Essex Junction with her husband, Kevin Hastings, who owns a woodworking shop in Colchester. They have three children.

Reiss is a petite woman with shoulder-length red hair and a gentle voice. Those who've argued cases in her court were that her gentle demeanor shouldn't be misinterpreted as a sign of softness or leniency. Reiss has been described as highly intelligent and disciplined, with a keen eye for detail and a vast knowledge of the law.

Reiss' judicial philosophy? Hard to say. By nature, judges are notoriously averse to answering such questions. In the rare instances when they grant interviews, they never broach subjects that may hint at how they'll rule on a case before them. In a recent interview, Reiss' answers were predictably generic and noncommittal.

"I tried to be precise and answer questions as straightforwardly as I could," she explains, speaking about her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Since I wasn't a target, it was not confrontational." But Reiss won't discuss any cases she's been assigned. "A new job is always bewildering," she allows, "but I'm really enjoying it." When asked to address common misconceptions about judges, she said, "I think some people do not fully appreciate the presumption of innocence or the adversarial process."

Neither did Reiss put her head in her written responses to questions from Sen. Jeff Sessions, the leading Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. When he asked her about higher court rulings that she personally disagreed with, she wrote that she



Christina Reiss

A JUDGE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT IT'S NOT CASES, PLEADINGS, PAPERS AND MATTERS THAT COME BEFORE THE JUDGE, BUT REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS AT STAKE.

CHRISTINA REISS

would "follow controlling precedent, even if I personally felt it was in error." On the question of "judicial activism," which Reiss defines as "judges who render advisory opinions regarding issues and facts not before the court,"

she responds that "improper" Reiss also said she's never referred to the U.S. Constitution as a "living document," and believes "distinctions are fixed unless amended."

When Sessions asked her about President Obama's desire to appoint judges with "impartiality," Reiss didn't take the bait, but she did show her human side.

"A judge must never forget that it's not cases, pleadings, papers and matters that come before the judge, but real people with real rights and interests at stake," she wrote. "In making those rulings, however, the rule of law and not the judge's personal feelings towards the litigants and their backgrounds determine the outcome."

Indeed, as a state judge, Reiss made some tough decisions that were based on the rule of law. Notably, in December 2007 she dismissed a 1971 murder charge against Kenneth Bailey, who'd been arrested for the crime in 1965, because key evidence had disappeared. In her decision, Reiss emphasized that she wasn't punishing the state for its "egregious loss of evidence," but was "affirming" the defendant's constitutional right to a fair trial.

Despite that unpopular ruling, Reiss made a lasting impression on those who were in her courtroom every day. Leticia Cusany Soto's Attorney Jeff Page, who says he argued cases before Reiss at least two or three times a week for about a year, describes her as "one of the most intelligent, thoughtful, diligent and fastest talking judges that I've dealt with in 10 years."

Page was particularly impressed with Reiss' ability to articulate to all the parties involved how she reached her verdict and why she imposed the sentences she did. "This was especially true, he notes, in cases where the sentence wasn't as severe as the victim had hoped.

"Everyone I know who presided in

See Cheryl Harris accompanying story
"Why Women Judges Matter" page 30



front of her stated that they were very impressed," Page adds. "They might not have gotten the outcome they would have liked, but they knew exactly why the outcome they obtained was headed there."

But O'Neill's testimony with the law firm of Grout and Shea in Burlington, where Reiss worked from 2001 to 2004. Though O'Neill reluctant to say much about his former colleague for fear of right sound "self-serving," he does say, "We loved her. Christian was a great lawyer, and she's going to be a great federal judge. She was conscientious, hard working and very, very efficient."

Reiss, considered at Grout and Shea suggests that she has a strong affinity for the First Amendment and freedom of the press. Over the years, her clients included several local news outlets, among them the Rutland Herald, the State Montpelier Times Argus, and River Days, all of which she represented in a 2002 lawsuit against then Gov. Howard Dean. In that case, reporters wanted to know exactly how much time Dean was spending on nongovernmental activities, particularly those related to his bid for the presidency. The media outlets sued Dean to produce copies of his calendar.

Though Dean claimed executive privilege exempted his calendar entries from Vermont's open-access laws, Reiss argued that those particular entries were subject to public disclosure. The Vermont Supreme Court ultimately agreed with her, and Dean was ordered to produce those entries that directly related to his presidential aspirations.

According to Gorpj Hanna, a professor at Vermont Law School, the only area where there's a clearly measurable difference between the rulings of male and female judges is that of discrimination. Female judges tend to see bias, while male judges tend to see the same behavior as inadvertent. (See accompanying article, "Why Women Judges Matter," p. 30).

As a state judge, Reiss presided over such a case in April 2005. Reiss was once

alleged gender discrimination when their membership application to the Klu Klux Lodge in Hartford were rejected. The national organization had abolished its male-only policy just a year earlier, but the Hartford lodge claimed the women's applications had not been rejected because of their sex. A jury agreed with the women and awarded each \$5000 in punitive damages. The Vermont Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

As part of her nomination process, Reiss had to provide a list of all the cases from which she recused herself. One, State v. Timothy Madson, struck particularly close to home. It involved a defendant who'd allegedly shot his best friend while hunting. The case was highly publicized because the defendant was a probation officer who had just returned from military service in Iraq.

Days before Reiss was due to issue her decision on a motion to dismiss the case, her father, a professor at St. Michael's College, was shot and killed while eating dinner by a neighbor who was target shooting nearby. Reiss says, "Although I believed I could decide the case fairly, I was concerned about the appearance of bias."

The effort that case may have on how Reiss rules on federal cases involving hunting, gun rights or an accidental death is impossible to predict. For her part, Reiss keeps her cards very close to her chest.

Judges are real people who come to the job with their life experiences," she says. "When they make those difficult decisions, they can't shake how it's impacting them personally or talk about it but it's a real honor to have this job." ☺



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Why Women Judges Matter

The appointment of Christina Reiss sets a precedent

BY CHERYL HANNA

In a recent conversation with my 8-year-old daughter, Seneca, I mentioned that I'd had lunch with a judge — a female judge. Seneca asked, "You mean the kind of judge that wears a black robe and says, 'You're guilty!'?"

"Yes," I said. "Why do you ask?" Seneca told me, to my alarm, that she thought only boys could be judges. Why? "Because all the judges I've seen are boys, and they're always so mean. Girls aren't mean enough to be judges, are they?"

I told her that you don't have to be mean to be a judge, just smart and wise. "And girls are smart and wise."

At that, Seneca, pulling on my black coat, called to her 4-year-old brother, "Hey, Elmo, let's play court. I'm the judge, and you're going to jail!"

I was in high school when President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor to the United States Supreme Court. I had never even seen a woman lawyer before then, much less a woman judge. There was certainly a growing number of female attorneys by the mid-1980s, but I didn't know any by name. I remember standing in the grocery store, transfixed by the *People* magazine with O'Connor on the cover, and just like my daughter today, I had a dream to go home and "play court" O'Connor's appointment to the bench was the single most important public event in my life, because at that moment I saw my own potential as limitless.

So, while I was not surprised by my daughter's exuberance at realizing that she, too, could sit as before me, I was shocked that, in 2013, a 6-year-old had internalized the idea that men were the ones primarily entitled to positions of power. Granted, her frames of reference

are Disney movies and the classic literature that I read her before bed. But in those fictional worlds, it's men who deal justice, and apparently in a subconscious way. Never mind that her own mother is a law professor.

What difference does it make if there are women judges? It matters that children see people who look like them doing things they might aspire to. It matters that young people have role models — if Seneca and her girlfriends don't see women in black robes, they don't see themselves in black robes. And it matters that, in a fractional democracy, such as we believe our talents and determinations — not our gender, color, class or creed — decide our destiny.

One thing that makes me crazy about the "woman, thou art" conundrum — which I can't believe some people are still buying — is the presumption that, but for being female, a woman wouldn't have been appointed to a judgeship. Of course, it would be dangerous to suggest that gender was not an important consideration when Reagan appointed O'Connor, or President Clinton appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg, or President Obama appointed Sonia Sotomayor. It was also an important consideration when Senator Leahy nominated Christina Reiss to the federal bench, making her Vermont's first female to hold that job. Problem is, the "gender factor" often becomes the

whole story, so that a woman's accomplishments and credentials are obscured or dismissed.

There should no longer be any dispute that intelligence and judgment are evenly distributed throughout the population, and that men are no more intrinsically suited to being judges than are women. That this premise was a long time coming. The nation's first female attorney, Myra Bradwell, appeared with her husband and passed the Illinois bar exams

went on to argue before the Supreme Court. Her success opened the door to other women entering the profession. In Vermont, Justin Ripwood was the first female attorney, in 1903. When she won her initial case at Chittenden County Superior Court, the local newspaper reported that she "was not in the business for fun."

It was 18 years before another female attorney joined Sigmond in Vermont. It was 18 years before the passage of the 26th Amendment giving women the right to vote. And it was not until 1970 that the total number of women admitted to the bar in Vermont exceeded 200. In other words, it was a long, slow journey to a legitimizing critical mass of women attorneys.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE.
GENDER PREFERENCE — FOR MEN —
HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FACTOR
IN JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.**

OPINION

tion, but the state refused to grant her a license to practice because she was a woman.

Bradwell took her case all the way to the United States Supreme Court, which upheld the state rule that only men could be lawyers. In a concurring opinion, Justice Bradley wrote, "The paramount destiny and mission of woman [sic] are to fulfill the noble and benign offices of wife and mother. This is the law of the Creator!"

That was in 1875, the belief that women were not biologically or socially equipped for the demands of the law lingered for many generations more.

When Illinois eventually changed its law, Bradwell became a lawyer and

See Kim French story on judge Christina Reiss, page 18



The Vermont Bar Association's "First 100 Years" report, which documents the lives of those first 100 female attorneys, reveals that gender discrimination in the Vermont bar was common. "One woman lawyer, admitted in 1975, recalled that at her bar admission ceremony, the lady lawyers' were still segregated from the male attorneys," reads one example. While such blatant discrimination no

larger courts, female attorneys can still face the kind of subtle, unspoken, unconscious biases expressed by Justice Bradley in 1972.

The first woman judge elected in Vermont was Justice Brown, who served the Marlboro District Probate Court from 1948 to 1964. Interestingly, she was active in the nuclear movement and a vocal opponent of Vermont's nuclear. Among the other famous British Consulate Northrup Bailey. The seventh woman appointed to the Vermont bar, she was the first female attorney in the state to try a murder case, the first female to serve as Speaker of the Vermont House and the nation's first woman to be elected lieutenant governor in 1984. It was not until 1993 that Gue Madeline Rausin, Vermont's first — and

still only — female governor, appointed the first woman to the Vermont Supreme Court, Denise Johnson. She remains on the bench today and was joined in 1997 by the second female, Justice Martha Stogdell.

Since Justice Sigwood's time in the early 20th century, the number of women joining the Vermont bar has steadily increased. So it's somewhat shocking that the first woman on the federal bench in Vermont was not seated until this year. Given that women make up 31 percent of the bar nationally, you might expect to find a similar percentage among federal appointees. Alas, women hold just 28 percent of federal judgeships. I suspect plenty of male judges out there got their appointments not just because

of superior intelligence and wisdom but because of the "old boys' network" blake so states, gender preference — for men — has always been a factor in judicial appointments.

Judge Kass has finally cracked this glass ceiling, but a question remains: Do women judge any differently from men, as my daughter seems to think? The answer, it depends. In particular, it depends on the kind of case. A judge's gender is known to make a significant difference in disputes where gender plays a role in the conduct of the parties — such as sexual harassment or discrimination in employment claims. In a recent study that looked at federal appellate cases of that nature, plaintiffs were more than twice as likely to prevail if a female judge

was on the panel. This study was consistent with others that have found women judges more likely to interpret the facts of cases as being harassment or discrimination as opposed to innocent conduct. No studies document any difference in the way men and women judge outside of these kinds of cases.

That said, Judge Kass' appointment is symbolically important and gives us something to celebrate during Women's History Month. Judge Kass will soon take up chambers in Rutland. And I'll be bringing both of my children there to see her in action — a much better field trip than going to the latest Disney princess movie. ☺

F Cheryl Harris teaches constitutional law at Vermont Law School.

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Boor in the Boondocks

Book review: *From Away* by David Carkeet

BY MARGOT HARRISON

From *Away* is one of those books you'll like a lot or not at all by the time you've finished the first paragraph. If you like it, as I did, Middlesex author David Carkeet's novel will make you laugh. Repeatedly.

Not for nothing does it come with an appealing blurb from *quinty* mystery-

king Carl Hiaasen, or another — from *Publishers Weekly* — that blinks it to the *Cann* brothers' snarky *Fargo*.

It's a good comparison, because *From Away* is a funny but well-spiced gumbo of local color, serious drama and silliness. Like the *Cann* brothers, Carkeet is less interested in plots than in people and the stupid things they do. The protagonist deserves to stand beside the Duke in *The Big Lebowski* as a fellow with a knack for changing the tone of every situation he lands in. While *From Away* isn't flawless, it's an original, unlike anything else in its genre.

That genre is the Vermont mystery, which practically qualifies for its own shelf at local bookstores right now. We have *Ascher Mayer* chronicling local (fictional) police work, Don Brinko connecting Northeast Kingdom towns, and Castle Freeman Jr. taking a tense, desktop approach to crime and punishment that feels like *Yankee*. Nancy Means Wright has written five books about a dairy farming sleuth. Thanks to Plymouth author Wendy Clinch, we now even have *the Dixie* mysteries.

In short, it's hard to think of an aspect of Vermont's "brand" or local color that hasn't been used to attract readers as they solve a whodunit. From which seems to me a sad reason to read, from this

breakin' at the steadily summer home to the blaggoning in the yard full of beavers, everything's been covered.

But Dennis Brimner, Carkeet's alter-ego, couldn't care less about what makes Vermont Vermont. As the title indicates, he's "from away" — a Chicagoan on assignment for his employer, a magazine, for model train enthusiasts. When we first meet Denny, he's headed for the Burlington airport on 1-89, where he runs his rental off the road out of sheer convenience. We subsequently learn he's just come from the Ben & Jerry's factory tour, from which he was expelled for an unseasonably exuberant after learning he wouldn't be allowed to taste his favorite discontinued flavor: Wacky Gavy.

Denny is a man of appetites — for food (he weighs in at 380 pounds, with no apologies or diet plans), and for stimulation of less laughable kinds. We get a sense of just how odd he's right off at the crash site, as he watches a state trooper approach:

[Denny] sat up a bit, but he wasn't able to see the gas on the trooper's hip. What would he have to do to make the trooper drive off? How had *he* got to *have* to do, how *else*? That was interesting to think about.

"Interesting" is doing for Denny Carkeet notes. "Sometimes he made things up so that the conversation would be more interesting for him" is a phone conversation, Denny's boss tells him. "That's a surprisingly normal sentence, Denny is someone *nothing* you?"

It's not that Denny is antisocial or perverse. It's just that "ordinary life" isn't enough for him. He needed life plus something else.



And he gets that extra challenge when he takes refuge, after the crash, in a Montpelier hotel "clocked a black with legislators." One of the lawmakers checks out early, leaving Denny his room. When a large, drunk and apparently notorious Stanhouse party girl named Marge drops by seeking the previous occupant, Denny thinks he's about to get lucky — for the first time in a while. But while he's out buying the condoms for their planned tryst, an unpleasant firm befalls Marge, leaving the bartender the prime suspect in a murder investigation.

Here's where a coincidence intervenes in Denny's favor. Since he has a striking physical resemblance to native Vermonter and well-loved local musician Homer Dangleby, who disappeared a couple of years before. One of the two detectives assigned to the Marge case has known Homer forever. And, like almost everyone else, he's quick to believe the evidence of his eyes. Instead of getting cuffed, Denny finds himself being greeted by half of Montpelier as if he were the Prodigal Son.

It's not the world's most plausible premise, but it's rich in comic possibilities. Like the corpse marching down the street in his new clothes, Denny dons Homer's identity and dices the locals to challenge him. With Yankee

LIKE THE CANN BROTHERS, CARKEET IS LESS INTERESTED IN PLOTS THAN IN PEOPLE AND THE STUPID THINGS THEY DO.

unfalsifiability, most of them don't. Then Homer's longtime girlfriend, Sarah, a steady public-radio commentator, doesn't call out the impostor. Meanwhile, Denny applies himself to the task of being Homer, which requires him to try something new: seeing the world from another person's perspective.

It should be apparent by now that, while *From Away* has mysterious aplenty (What happened to Marge? What happened to Homer? Why the "Stanhouse" aliases?), it isn't primarily a mystery. Fans of the genre may be frustrated by the dearth of red herrings and plot convolutions on display — not to mention competent police work (One of the more touching characters is a cop who

MEET THE AUTHORS

David Carter may be better known in St. Louis, thanks for his Vietnam, where he's been for the past six and a half years.

Born in Denmark, Clegg first taught at the University of Missouri-St. Louis for three decades and founded and edited its PRS program. There, where in the 80s and 90s he produced three novels about a linguist named Jerry Clegg — all New York Times bestsellers. His latest book, *The Year* — which the Overlook Press will release in coming months in 1994. Clegg has published the classic *Steps of a Man* (1971) and more about a linguist dismissed as a "dilettante" which drew lines from sources as diverse as the *New York Journal of the Foreign Mobs*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Los Angeles*.

In 2004, Carleton took an early retirement package from the university and moved with his family to a parcel of land in Middlesex. He told "Watershed View" that, says a spokesman, since his younger daughter now is a graduate at the Farm & Wilderness Camps in Fergus Falls, Minn., his arrival felt pushed out of Camp. Scopes (2008) is an award-winning memoir that is not, in fact, about a campus airport, but a juxtaposition of that name that threatens Carleton's prominence by portraying it as a "Toxic Place like hundreds of sites

'I'm more reflective, so I did a lot of essays. The class length meant I was satisfied that need.' Carlow then returned to writing fiction because 'I really missed it' he said.

In Vermont, Carleton likes to look up an instrument he has touched as a child. "Now, how," he plays the trumpet reverently, "must be close, just a few days ago, a member of the Worcester Commission for Rural Life Capital City Band in Green Mountain State. And then a proud boy! To be to urge every school person to take up the instrument they played as a child." He says.

Rushing to rehearsal on December night, Curkovic "slipped off the road into a ditch," he recalls. He started from *Away the Next Day*. "I don't know where it was going to go. I would still be confused."

But, having imagined a character who was profoundly rejected—even repulsive to others—“he finally lived the idea of agony in that. I don’t see lending is a place where community is so important,” he says. “I think that impulse spring from my own despair and loneliness. It’s ending at a new place where I didn’t ever realize. This guy—this has personal meaning. I needed to have him experience the

Since he's got plenty going for him, the dating character Conner says he's come to feel more a part of the community. But he's still struck by the social awkwardness that makes Dennis's respect possible. "We're never closer guys, are we?" he says. "There is that reserve that is still here — a respect for privacy that can also be the wallflower."

Indifference is the life that grows plenty at most costs. That's why Carlock is a great love found a publishing home at the Overlook Press, which was kind enough to name Peter Mayer, former founder of Penguin as a place "for overlooked authors." Seeing his Jewish-rooted novels — Double Happiness, the Fall of Colossus and The First at Our Wills — back in print "is my dream," Carlock says. "You publish a book, and it links to the bottom of the ocean."

These drawings highlight local traditions in representing the three exiles.

confesses, "Even when I'm arresting someone, I'm thinking, 'I bet he didn't do it'"

From Away is less a whodunit than a thought experiment: It's about placing a volatile outsider in a static situation and watching the resulting turbulence play out to its natural conclusion. Derrig's passion is building model train layouts — they sometimes he can control. His first impression of Montpelier is that of a lover's come to life.

Such a lovely town of Betsey and Morty and Margie, and everyone knowing everything because there was so little to know. It was like a model train town full of little people. You could pick them up and set them anywhere you liked.

Of course, no one is quite so easy to manipulate, as Denap/Homer discovers. But, like every fairy tale of a con man or trickster, this one hits a truth. In a sleepy, close-knit community, an observant interloper can wield more power than he or she deserves.

Ultimately, of course, Carlsen is the one building this tiny world, and he does it with a keen sense of everyday absurdity. The characters are forever talking past and around one another, either because they're deluded egomaniacs or because they can't or won't speak plainly. Take Sarah, who "infused with a mountain of smiles" on the radio but seethes with anger every time she encounters Haman/Denny. Or Denny's editor, who delivers bad news this way:

Listen, I've been willing to edit your words, but I have no dream to

side you, I'm worried about you, Deeny. I like you. Well, that's not exactly true, but I am worried. Actually, I'm not all that worried. The point is, you're fired. I've never fired anyone, Deeny. Ruth can't carry a gun, she's my peacekeeper and I'm sticking with her. You, though — I've shared with you someone

You can argue with some of the plotting and characterization in *From Away*, but you can't argue with the clever timing of passages like that one. Lorde, Carlini is "a born word man" (the words these previous novels show here is a linguistic professor). If you can get through the novel without hectoring your friends about why the dialogue is your head, or even casting a fancy film version (Philip Seymour Hoffman as Deane?) (Steve Buscemi as the wistfully wood-clad Spauld), then you're a sterner reader than I.

There's nothing stern about *Free-
Army*. Like David Lodge, a writer he
resembles, Carlsen clearly likes his
characters (or most of them) too much
to subject them to the sort of dark, cyni-
cal scrutiny of human nature with which
many mysteries conclude. While most of
the great literary detectives are losers by
nature, Daring is an oddball who, against
all odds, finds a community. And that's a
Vermont theme: not sacrifice. ☺



 Photo by David Dwyer,
Overhead Project, 2008, 420 02

David Cozzani reads at Four Pond Books in Manhattan on Tuesday, March 9, 8:30-9:30 pm, and at Phoenix Books in Boston on Tuesday, April 6, 8:30-9:30 pm. davidcozzani.com



Pushing the Oscar Envelope

Seven Days' film critics speculate on the awards

BY RICK KISONAK AND MARGOT HARRISON

Delish of all things with the red carpet on Sunday night at the 84th Annual Academy Awards. Drop about the nominees on Twitter with Margaret Herrick. @margot26



The Hurt Locker



The Artist



The Girl on the Train

MOVIES

MARGOT HARRISON Looks like the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is taking a cue from *Berlinale* and a few other towns. Not only has it dethroned the field of Best Picture nominees — basically, no guess more winners after they've actually seen the race — but it will pack a winner using our much debated system of instant runoff voting.

Which movie will be the fish King of the Oscars? Which will be the Best Wright? Will James Cameron recover himself "long at the world" in his made-up Nazi language? We'll see.

PREDICTION TIME
Who will win?
Who should win?

BEST FILM

RK: *Avatar* surprised a lot of people by snagging that Golden Globe, but I think *The Hurt Locker* is rightfully regaining momentum as we go into the home stretch. Kathryn Bigelow earned top honors from the Directors Guild of America on January 30, and the winner of that award has failed to go on to Oscar victory only six times since 1948. The winners' films usually won Best Picture, too.

MH: While I prefer *The Hurt Locker*, I would still bet on *Avatar*. It's huge. It's blue. It jumps off the screen. More important, it's the future of movies in theaters. When it comes to making actual profits, digital 3D is the best thing since paper.

BEST ACTOR

RK: It's interesting that George Clooney was considered a shoe-in at one point and is now as much of a long shot as, say, Colin Firth? What happened? A little miracle of a movie called *Crash* that, which came that close to going straight to DVD. As hard-drinking country has been bad Blake, Jeff Bridges gives the performance of his career. And he's given some coriander.

MH: Yeah, Bridges will win. But I prefer Jeremy Renner for *The Hurt Locker*, a fresh face in an electrifying performance.

BEST ACTRESS

RK: Carey Mulligan has been ribbed all awards season long, if you ask me. But, Meryl Streep does a great impression of Julia Child, but in *An Education*, the newcomer gives a great, meticulously crafted performance. It was one of the most memorable things I saw on screen all year. Expect her to be ribbed one final time Sunday night.

MH: Streep didn't just do an impression, she created a character. She inspired me to hula. But I think the voters want to see another sassy acceptance speech from Sandra Bullock.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

RK: In this race, Christoph Waltz is definitely the man to beat. And the man I'd like to see beat him is Stanley Tucci. Talk about range. In *Julie & Julia*, he played the sweetest guy you can imagine. In *The Lovely Bones*, he's chilling as an inexpressibly evil predator. He made that movie worth seeing. And that's saying something.

MH: Waltz will walk away with it, and I'll live with that. Quentin Tarantino's knack for casting talented unknowns is all that makes his movies still watchable.

RICK KISONAK: I've got to say I'll be sorry to see awards season come to an end. For me it's kind of like a Super Bowl that lasts for almost five months. As a member of the President Film Critics Association, I get to take part in the kickoff by voting on the Critics' Choice Awards. That was way back on January 15. Since then, we've had the Golden Globes, the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the Directors Guild Awards and several others. The fun thing is that there've been very few consistent winners. It's definitely an anything could happen kind of year for the Oscars.

The envelopes will be opened this Sunday. In the meantime, here are our picks....

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Oscars 2010

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

RM I'd only love to see Maggie Gyllenhaal with an upset eye, here, but thank you for stopping the sporting talk that is *McQueen*. She's not every thing she's been seen and for, and she's going to win on Sunday. The *Princess* story deserves it. That was some scary good acting.

MM Very good. Agreed.

RM It's time to stop the madness already. Seriously. *Barbie* (All about *Barbie*) *Bullseye* — Academy Award winning actress? She gives a capable performance in a perfectly nice Hallmark movie, but let's not go overboard. Think what a comedienne getting the bar so low your whole career. You make one movie that doesn't blow, and suddenly you look like Meryl Streep. With whom she's actually connected! How surreal is that? If she continues her several-season winning streak, she'll be the first person to win a Best Actress Oscar and a Razzie in the same year.

those. And, speaking of length, I think we can all live without multiple Best Short Film awards. When was the last time you watched a short film? It's not like they end up at Blockbuster or on DVD. The size of other dollars. What good are they, and how do they merit an Oscar category? I want an Oscar for the home movie I made of my daughter's school play.

MM Short films are an art form, like short stories. And you can read you and see them in festivals. Me, I would see *Barbie*.



BEST DOCUMENTARY

RM Talk about a tight race. There's never been anything quite like *The Cove*. It's at once an astounding feat of advocacy filmmaking and a white-knuckle race thriller. But *Food Inc.* is a superbly crafted, and blowing record as well, and it's going on *The Cove*. I salute both pictures, but I think it's going to be *The Cove* by a nose.

MM Yes, *The Cove*. When it comes to documentaries about brutal slaughter, the cute dolphins will always get more votes than hedge and beef cattle.

What's the evening's most solid lock?

RM I'd call it a tie between *Jeff Bridges* and *McQueen*. I don't see anyone stepping out of these two at this stage of the game. Oh, and I think it's probably safe to put your children's college fund on *Avatar* for Best Visual Effects. Just call me Neotradenna.

MM Up for Best Animated Feature. No one's better than Pixar at making adults cry.

THE GLAZED HAM AWARD
Which nominated thespian deserves this Oscar the least?

MM You know, that would be kind of awesome. But I enjoyed watching *Bullseye* more than I did Maggie Gyllenhaal, whom I'm starting to think just acts beautifully scared in every film. At least in *Away We Go* that was funny.

MILESTONE WATCH

Will a woman win Best Director in 2010 for the first time ever? If not, who will?

RM My money is on Kathryn Bigelow to make history Sunday night. If she doesn't go home with the golden guy, James Cameron will. It's like a total David and Goliath deal. If, you know, David and Goliath had at one time been married.

MM I would love to see Bigelow get it. But will women see her as a premier leg female action director? Her last high profile film was the 1995 bomb *Strange Days*.

REDUNDANCY DEPARTMENT

Which categories should the Academy ax?

RM How many people out there in TV land know the difference between *Best Sound Editing* and *Best Sound Mixing*? Hey this is a long shot. I say the time has come to ditch multiple categories like

Language Film. The individual roles exclude too many good movies. With 10 Best Pic nominees, why not just let some *Anglophone* film compete in that category? More of *Jurassic Park* would be submitted, for God's sake.

EVERYONE'S A WINNER
Now that the Best Picture field has expanded (with 10 nominees instead of five), which titles look like filler? Which deserving flicks got left out?

RM On the *Effie* side, two jump out: *The Blind Side* and *The Cuckoo's Nest*. I love the brothers, but I've watched this movie at least a dozen times now, and it's not growing on me. From where I stand, it's one of their lesser efforts. As for overlooked work, take your pick: *Amadeus*, *From Justin to Kelly*, *Goodbye Solo*, *Mean* and *The Road*. None of them would have been out of place on that top 10 list.

MM Gail was wrong, but I prefer *A Serious Man* to *No Country for Old Men*. I'm actually happy with those nominees, except for *Avatar*. *The Blind Side*. I like that there's a mix of any *fic* by, Oscar hat and crowd pleasers, including the unlikely *District 9*.

What's the most surprising nominee?

RE: Day, know anyone who's ever heard of *The Secret of Kells*, much less seen it? Yet there it is nominated for Best Animated Feature. Also surprising most of the nominations for Best Foreign Language Film: I saw dozens of fabu lous foreign films last year, but with the exception of *The White Ribbon*, none of them made the cut. Best out of five was very under the radar.

MH: If you're curious, you can see *The Secret of Kells* at the upcoming Green Mountain Film Festival. I was most surprised by Matt Damon's nomination for Best Actor. Palsy accent? Check. Near physics? Check. But not much of a role or performance.

What's the most shocking snub?

RE: No shortage of Oscar Michael Meehan. The Academy evidently had no love for *Capote* or Dr. Ben Hunter and his breakout performance in *The Messenger*. Ditto Brad Pitt's *Inglorious Basterds* and *Johnny Suede*. A *Single Man* (who really should've had the slot filled by Penelope Cruz for her work in *Nine*). No one should be nominated for their work in *Nine*. The biggest in my book? *Test Cray*. Movie was decent for Best Original Score. Oh, yeah, Kate Winslet, I've got the soundtrack from *Shrek*. Michael.

MH: If Pitt had been nominated for his shenanigans in *Basterds*, then I'd be shocked. I would have liked to see Shasha Casley (District 9) and Peter Capaldi (in the loop) nominated for Best Actor and Best Supporting, but that wasn't gonna happen. What's really shocking is the omission of Martin Handberg's score for *The Informant*. Lighten up, Academy!

Which nominee would you like to see totally shut out?

RE: Sandra Bullock

MH: It's a toss up between her and Cameron.

Which win would you like to see for the sake of a certain Vermonter?

RE: Christopher Plummer in *The Last Station*. For one thing, the man is 90

and has never been nominated until now. And he's a member. So another, the movie's adapted from a book by Jay Pritz, who, besides being a genius, is one of the nicest human beings you'll ever meet. A victory for Plummer would be good for the film's box office, and that could lead to more big-screen versions of Pritz's work.

PONTIFICATION TIME What do these Oscar noms say about the future of American civilization?

RE: Not to be a doormat, but I think, if you read between the lines, you'll see the Academy is going the way of so many of this country's institutions — talking out and drinking down.

Keep in mind, the Oscars broadcast isn't about movies. It's a TV show. It's about television and ratings and all that. And these are the considerations that led to the expansion of the Best Picture field from five to 10 nominees, as you pointed out.

And it's the reason papers put names like *The Blind Side*, *Shrek*, *Hobbit*, *Mary Potter* and *The Half Blood Prince*, *Star Trek* and even *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* are nominated for Academy Awards this year alongside a work of cinema like *The Hurt Locker*.

The Oscars should be about recognizing the best in filmmaking, not about endorsing ratings and advertising rates. All I'm saying is, it's a slippery slope. Where will it end? This year it's *Shrek*. Next year it might be *Megan Fox*.

MH: I actually think it's amazing (and horrifying) that *The Hurt Locker* is a contender. *See: Hurt My Face Lady!* *The Sound of Music* *Oliver!* *Kinky Boots* *Wuth* *Wuth* *Forest Gump* *Titanic* *G.I. Joe* *All Star Picture* winners. All crowd pleasers of debatable artistic quality. So I'm not seeing drinking down this year. What I am seeing is a death of high taste, low risk Oscar bait like *Crash* or *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Most of these Best Picture contenders were labors of love that took leaps of faith to make — you, even *Avatar* and my least favorite, *The Blind Side*. They're the kind of movies that have quickly passionate fans and detractors. And that's what I like to see in the race. ☺



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BY SUZANNE POZHARIZER & ALICE LEVITT

Tanzanian Tastes

MIDTOWN'S RESTAURANT BRINGS AFRICAN FOOD TO NEW YORK

Five weeks ago you could have Wuli Ma Tumbi Wu Kulu Wu Mbili without leaving the Green Mountains.

The aromatic sautéed chicken dish, bathed in a creamy yogurt sauce and served over rice and fried plantains, is one of the more tasty of **MARIAMU RESTAURANT**'s in Windsor. The restaurant opened just before the new year.

Owner **ANNEKE GAGNE** says she and her fiancé, **IBRAHIM MARIAMU**, catered their new business to fulfill Mariamu's passion for cooking his native Tanzanian cuisine. Peanut Curry Chicken and Samaki — pan-fried salmon in orange sauce — have been among the restaurant's most popular dishes, she says. For families with a less adventurous palate, Mariamu also prepares American classics such as chicken breasts, from scratch chicken fajitas, burgers and spaghetti with homemade sauce.

In a setting decorated with posters of African animals and art, the couple, both on their early thirties, serves a selection of South African wines. Gagne says Mariamu has his wide cultural knowledge to choose South-to-African tastes.

Mariamu learned his recipes with his family members who work in their catering business. And he's following in their footsteps. He and Gagne provide food for special events — from the cake — under the business name Mariamu Reintertainment. Mariamu, a member of the American Dine Jersey Association, also opens at parties, though Gagne says, "He hasn't done much DJing here we spend there usually on any many hours on the day."

— A.L.

Mex on the Move

NEW HAMPSHIRE GAINS SOUTH HIGHS IN V.T.

A small New Hampshire-based Mexican restaurant chain called **Tio Juan's Margaritas** is hoping to bring its south-of-the-border flair to the Green Mountain town.

According to CEO Bob Hoffmeister, the 19-restaurant company is famous for serving fresh versions of "the best items in all of the different food regions in Mexico," plus a few American-entire favorites. The Mex offers up such as grilled chicken fajitas and burritos stuffed with beef, lettuce, tomatoes and sour cream alongside sides with more traditional items. Their Big shrimp, pork carnitas and halibut and steaming chicken with chorizo sauce, green sauce and the signature Margarita mix are made fresh daily.

With two proposed Green Mountain locations — one in the Burlington area and another near Bedford — Hoffmeister believes Margaritas will be able to reach its target audience in the under-served Vermont market.

The challenges new are to find a willing franchisee and a couple of recent locations. Unlike chains that build new restaurants everywhere they go, Margaritas takes over existing restaurant spaces and does its own art with Mexican sculptures, crafts and pottery. If the company finds the right person, Hoffmeister says, Margaritas could be tapping the impulse by fall.

— S.P.

Comfort Cuisine

THE COUNTRY TABLE BRINGS IN JEFFERSONVILLE

During the long months of new arrival, real roots of the struggle are now here

Getting a Chubby

NEW MEXICO SAYS SLATS FOR OLD NORTH DVS

According to **SEBASTIAN PANDICE** owner **SEBASTIAN KOLLE**, he and his staffers have long looked at the chicken as an after-ago called "THE CHICKEN MYSTERY." "I have this chicken on my list. I just love [them]," Adler admits. But he never thought the guilty name would give as honest to goodness mystery. Sometime in April, it will.

Located at 88 Oak Street in the Old North End, the Muffin will serve dual fare. Staffers will bring the homemade panini, coffee and a menu to hang the level, and the space also will serve as a community kitchen.

"One of our dining experiences for this is that we can stretch our social mission," Adler explains. "That's the real first in our belly for this project."

How will the Pandice team spread love here? Adler says the plan is to "share the kitchen with some nonprofits." So far, he's invited an official partnership with **NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW AMERICAN** and has agreed to the **WOMEN BY CAMPBELL'S ONE-CHANGING-PLATE**. The plan is that, during off hours, those groups will have use of the kitchen to create meals that can be sold at local stores and markets, or distributed to food resource families.

Located just a mile from the **WINDMILL** in the nearby field area between River Street and Route 127, the Muffin is going to take on fresh foods for processing and storage. For example, "We'll have lots of frozen eggs, so hopefully we can discuss some ways with farmers," says Adler, who plans to work the local food — "big for me" with many eggs," as well as on the Pandice's crops.

Asked if he can expect the baked goods — which will be open to lots of local ingredients — to be on creative as the crops, Adler plays it off. "I'll leave that up to the art for now," he says. "You'll have to come see."

— S.P.

found the sign that translated that **THE FARMER** table was "companionable" partially translating. Chef owner **JOHN RAPHAEL** thanked locals for their patience and support on Wednesday as the best possible way — with free food. The next day the building formerly occupied by Jack Campbell opened to the public. Raphael, who has two degrees from Johnson & Wales and has been a restaurateur in Rhode Island, says he's excited to provide a locally prepared, home-style cooking to his new neighbors.

Dishes include buttered

fried chicken — which is baked for three days before being double-dipped in butter and fried — simple herb-braised pork chops, for example. Alfredo and shrimp scampi. Specials will be more ambitious, featuring Ragout's buns and training, but first items will start at \$10. In summer, fish fry and barbecue will be added up from the restaurant's side window.

Whatever he makes, Ragout's confidence in his will come back for more. "I'm lucky," he says. "So it's gotta be perfect."

— A.L.

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First Bite: Das Bierhaus

BY SUZANNE PODWAZER

Lets face it, restaurants hardly ever open when their owners say they will. Whether the obstacle is the vagaries of liquor licensing, trouble with contractors or run-of-the-mill "stalling issues," food entrepreneurs have trouble sticking with a schedule. Every dreamer who lists that an exciting entry will start a drinking up-down on May 1 generally puts a visit on their calendar for July.

In the Burlington area, no restaurant has had a more unusual opening trajectory than Das Bierhaus. The bar and

restaurant is located on lower Church Street, where the beloved Five Spice Cafe used to be. After a January 2007 fire shut down the narrow gas Asian hot spot, the space remained empty. So, in March 2009, when a website popped up announcing the arrival of a German eatery and beer garden, Vermont Foodies took notice. The projected opening date for the ambitious project? Some time that June.

The Das Bierhaus buzz was instantaneous and fervent. The business' Facebook page quickly garnered more than 1,000 followers, and no discussion of the Burlington food scene seemed

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A Shuckin' Good Time

Bluebird Tavern oyster night was an easy shell

BY SUZANNE POSHAIZER



Just Shuckin' Fresh: an oyster at Bluebird Tavern's Oyster Night

It's tough to eat oysters standing up and in a crowd. The rough half-shells brim with briny liquor, and the slightest perturbation is enough to send dribbles down the front of one's shirt. Or, occasion, oystercoat fish chips to the shell, requiring a nudge to get it into a willing mouth. The task is more complicated when one hand is grasping the stem of a wine glass — filled with a strawberry-colored French rosé or a citrus-and-mint-scented sauvignon blanc.

Last Sunday, a small group of enthusiasts happily grappled with glasses, plates and shells at an annual event. Fresh from scoring a semifinalist nod from the James Beard Foundation in the outstanding Best New Restaurant category, Burlington's Bluebird Tavern opened its doors to 35 of its biggest fans.

Attendees paid \$99 plus tax and gratuity for the privilege of participating in an orgy of oyster eating, with three East Coast and three West Coast varieties available. Staffers from Bedales Wine Shop waited behind the bar to pour six French whites they'd chosen to accompany the shellfish.

The ebullient crowd of food aficionados included several restaurateurs, such as Charles Savoree and Mauro O'Sullivan

**THEY PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE
GOTTEN A COUPLE HUNDRED MORE.
I DON'T THINK ANYBODY KNEW
HOW FAST THEY WOULD GO.**

ROWAN JACOBSEN

of Peasey Chase, and Vermont Fresh Network's director Meghan Sheridan — an oyster novice out to learn more about foods from other regions. The star of the show was Rowan Jacobsen — an oyster novice out to learn more about foods from other regions. The star of the show was Rowan Jacobsen — an oyster novice out to learn more about foods from other regions. The star of the show was Rowan Jacobsen — an oyster novice out to learn more about foods from other regions.

Addressing the crowd from atop a chair in Bluebird's blue-walled function room, Jacobsen pointed out that oysters are the purest expression of the concept of terroir — a French term sometimes translated as "taste of place." The startling flavor differences among oysters — there are 300 recognized varieties in North America — have everything to do with where they've grown and the water they filter over their gills. If the shellfish come from a sheltered bay, they won't soak



Jacobsen just ate all 35 oysters there this year

strongly of briny, cold-water oyster taste crab and house-firm fish. Eating one of the mollusks is "like kissing the sea on the lips," Jacobsen said, quoting poet Léon-Paul Fargue.

The restaurant was closed to the public, and temporary oyster staffers resided across from the actual bar, with the setup mimicking the mollusk's

provenance. For East Coast oysters were on the right, where Healthy Living butcher Frank Pace helped out by passing his shucking skills to the test. Petite West Coast oysters were to the left.

What's the diff? The oysters from Massachusetts and Rhode Island were fleshy, with a mineral taste and a burst of sweetness at the end. The ones from Washington State and British Columbia were leaner, with pronounced flavors of onion and cucumber.

If the attendees had one complaint, it was that the "oll-you-see-oll" oysters ran out before they'd gotten their fill. Luckily, Bluebird staffers were ready to fill the gap with baskets of crispy French fries and deep-fried oyster po' boys in buttery rolls with house-made tartar sauce.

"They probably should have gotten a couple hundred more," Jacobsen suggested. "I don't think anybody knew how fast they would go."

Maybe the problem was that it was hard to stop shucking over: Sue Betts said, "We did a count at 15 [oysters] per person, but some people ate 35. We're hoping to make this an annual event. We'll have to bump that up next year."

Another suggestion? Yikes. ☹

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food

Das Bierhaus WINE

complete without a mention of the proposed rooftop beer garden and the possibility of *crappy* seasonal food, come December; there would be no beerfest or worst to be seen.

Justly, in mid-month, the restaurant began a series of soft openings for Facebook fans. In late January regular hours were announced — Das Bierhaus begins serving at 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Since then it's open on other days, sometimes it's not.

DAS BIERHAUS HAS ANOTHER NOTABLE ATTRIBUTE: FEMALE STAFFERS WEAR DIRLS.

When it's, *patience* under through wide door and choice between sitting upstairs in the bar/lounge, Swiss-chef-style town — where they can watch international sporting events on flat screen TVs — and downstairs in the patio, dark paneled dining room complete with a rustic clock behind the bar.

The list of brews on tap, ranging from delicate Beersmith Kolsch to as robust Ayinger Celebrator, could inspire Thruway beer connoisseurs to a hearty toast. Those who want greater variety can swing from more than 30 imported and domestic bottles. Glühwein, a sweet red wine laced with cinnamon, cloves and vanilla, is the perfect sip for a cold winter evening.

Compared with the drink list, the food menu is clearly still in development: most translates three kinds of food into — pork, meat and chicken — a handful of traditional sausages and a slew of sides.

On a soft opening visit last month, I found several of the dishes needing work. Mashed potatoes were overcooked and underseasoned, and a worst plate arrived without mustard.

But in a subsequent visit last week, the fare was much better executed. Top streaks of homemade spittoon, soft but not mushy, were spiced with dill and a touch of cheddar. Potato salad — available warm or cold — featured a kissing dose of vinegar and bits of bacon.

High-quality traditional sausages, such as delicate backwurst and smoky knockwurst, come at pairs for \$7.15 each. Spicy bratwurst and homemade are available on the side, and every wine costs at extra \$2. On

my first visit, a friend of Indian descent opined that the three-course condiment was "better than the Indian food" available at area restaurants. Said to me, though, none of the more traditional *weisskraut* is yet in evidence.

Although it comes with a side dish, the selected season's *crappy* at \$17 to \$18, depending on choice of meat. (If that meat is sausage or pork, the menu has nothing to say about it.) While the pork schnitzel was nice and crisp on the outside, it could have been more tender and juicy in the middle.

Accompanying sides run \$5 to \$6. The heaviest one, *Haus* salad, is a simple yet enticing combo of roasted almonds, Leontis' *Roast* cheese and greens, drizzled with sweet, maple-based vinaigrette. *House* salad and *potatoes* are available, too.

In addition to the plethora of sausages, the excellent beer selection, and the lively clanging of the rustic clock, Das Bierhaus has another notable attribute: Female staffers wear dirls. The dirndl dress is traditional garb in parts of Eastern Europe, where it comes in plenty of styles, including high-necked ones modest enough for a cat. The dirndl at Das Bierhaus are a bit more revealing. Regardless of one's sexual orientation, it's hard to watch a server approach without recalling an English equivalent to the German phrase "Sie hat Hals wie der Hutt" (she has neck like the hump) — the traditional compliment for a buxom fraulein. (It literally means "She has wood in front of her hat.") Question is, when will male staffers start wearing dirndl lederhosen?

Active male, the servers are thoughtful, prompt and willing to seek out information when they don't already know the answers to patrons' questions.

Until more German dishes appear on the menu, I'll probably stick with *weiss* plates paired with potato salad or greens, washed down with pints of incredible German beer. Both my ex-patrons were enjoyable, and knowing that Das Bierhaus is still expanding its menu in anticipation of its grand opening, I'm convinced the best is yet to come.

Das Bierhaus may have let one Oktoberfest pass without opening its doors, but come the next one, they'll be ready. **D**

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The Chittenden County, the middle-class clinic in Chittenden County, is seeking a part-time Case Manager (approximately 10 hours per week). Duties include but are not limited to assessing client status, providing case management, counseling, and crisis support. The Case Manager will be responsible for assessing client status, providing case management, counseling, and crisis support.

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Seeking energetic, compassionate and organized clinicians to support persons with serious mental illness or recovery. The position is a multidisciplinary team providing creative problem solving, advocacy, case management, counseling, and crisis support. The position is a multidisciplinary team providing creative problem solving, advocacy, case management, counseling, and crisis support.

SUB-MIDDLE CRISIS TEAM CLINICIAN

Attention MA/MS/BSW in training graduates: The Middle Crisis Team is seeking dynamic, flexible and team-oriented individuals for subacute part-time employment for our 24-hour psychiatric crisis program. This first-level team provides outreach and support to clients and provides a critical support system for our 24-hour psychiatric crisis program. This first-level team provides outreach and support to clients and provides a critical support system for our 24-hour psychiatric crisis program.

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

DYNAMIC AND EXCITING MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL OPPORTUNITY

Dynamic mental health position located at the Walter Family Practice, a division of Fletcher Allen Health Care. The position is a part-time position between HowardCenter, CHS and Fletcher Allen Health Care. The position involves clinical assessment, treatment, and crisis support. The position is a part-time position between HowardCenter, CHS and Fletcher Allen Health Care. The position involves clinical assessment, treatment, and crisis support.

Visit www.howardcenter.org for more details and a complete list of employment opportunities.

HowardCenter is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, people of color and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. (EO/AAE) We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package with a 401(k) plan.

The State of Vermont

For more information, visit www.vermont.gov

Public Health Nutritionist I

Vermont Department of Health, Rutland District Office

Make a difference in your community and join our WIC team! The Rutland District Office is looking for a nutritionist to provide nutrition services to women, infants and children. Duties include nutrition assessment, counseling, education, high-risk follow-up and breastfeeding support to individuals and their families.

For more information contact Martha Stanley at mstanley@state.vt.us or call 802-786-5167. Requires a bachelor's degree with a major in nutrition, dietetics, or food and nutrition. Reference job posting #26034, Rutland, full-time.

The State of Vermont offers an excellent total compensation package. To apply, use the online job application at www.vermont.gov or contact the Department of Human Resources Division, Recruitment Services, at 800-645-3137 (toll-free) or 800-253-0051 (TTY/Relay Service), application deadline 3/27/13.

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Kitchen Shift Coordinator

City Market is seeking a full-time Kitchen Shift Coordinator to help lead our growing, dynamic Prepared Foods Department. This position is responsible for supporting and directing the staff in the Prepared Foods Department, cooking cooking menu options for our hot and cold food bar, maintaining a positive work environment for days, staff, providing excellent customer service, and maintaining safety and sanitation standards.

Candidates must have at least two years of professional cooking experience. An associate's or culinary degree is preferred. Candidates must also have experience leading others, knowledge of production-oriented kitchen operations and appropriate sanitation practices, and excellent communication and customer service skills. If you have the energy and skills this position demands, apply online today!

We offer fantastic benefits including medical, dental, life and vision, retirement plan, generous paid time off, sick discount, mass transit reimbursement, health club discounts and much more! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Apply online at www.citymarket.com

City Market Inc.
441 Vermont Ave. Suite 1
Burlington, VT 05401
and www.citymarket.com



Call Center/Customer Accounts Manager

Restorative Medicine/WTSmed Inc. is a socially conscious local business with the primary focus of effectively supporting optimal health and wellness. We host medical conferences and manufacture professional strength botanical and nutritional supplements for physicians. Our office is located in downtown Montpelier.

We are looking for a Call Center/Customer Accounts Manager to join our team. This person will be responsible for maintaining client records, processing orders, data management and ensuring that our clients receive excellent customer support.

Applicants must be able to work independently as well as collaboratively, possess logical and critical-assessment skills, and be great communicators with a friendly and enthusiastic phone demeanor. Applicants must have at least five years professional experience in managing administrative projects and be able to interface with various software applications, Microsoft Office, MSN, general office equipment, and multiple phone systems. Verbal and written communication skills, attention to detail and the ability to problem solve and multitask are essential for this job.

Genuine interest in holistic lifestyles is important, as well as a high level of ethics. We are dedicated to creating a healthy and enjoyable work environment. This hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 3 days per week. Health insurance is provided. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please email your resume, letter of interest and salary requirements by March 15th to Michelle at michelle@restorative-medicine.com

No phone inquires, please



**RESTORATIVE
MEDICINE**
WTSmed, Inc.

Hoyle, Tanner CADD TECHNICIAN

HOYLE, TANNER & ASSOCIATES, INC. is a midsize national consulting engineering firm with offices in the Northeast, Florida and Virgin Islands is seeking an entry-level CADD TECHNICIAN for our BURLINGTON, VERMONT office. Candidates should have entry-level to five years of CADD experience on bridge and building projects, AutoCAD and MicroStation experience preferred. Requires problem solving and writing skills, good communication and organizational skills. BS required. (SALARY CODE CH613210)

Please send resume, citing career code to:
HOYLE, TANNER & ASSOCIATES, INC., 125 College Street, 4th
Floor, Burlington, VT 05401 or via email to:
johshop@hoyletanner.com or fax to 802-556-5498.

HOYLE, TANNER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
www.hoyletanner.com

{Work. Life. Balance.} we do that here.



Respiratory Therapist (Respiratory Therapy)

Are you a Respiratory Therapist looking to make a change or pick up some extra hours? We're seeking a flexible full time - full time staff member to join our experienced Respiratory team. Willingness to work nights will be preferred for the position. Job code: 06-52

Apply to:

Northwestern Medical Center HR Department
133 Fairfield St., St. Albans, VT 05478
Fax: 802-524-8434
www.NorthwesternMedicalCenter.org
Visit our fan page on Facebook!



NMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, religion, or ethnicity is prohibited. All new employees will be subject to a pre-employment health screening and drug test.

AGING PEOPLE WANTED Home Instead SENIORE CARE

We're not just personal.
Home Instead Senior Care is a provider of non-medical companion ship and home helper services to seniors in their homes, working flexibly cheerful and dignified older people. CNA's must have with comprehensive light housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, errands and more. Part time flexible scheduling including daytime evening, week end and overnight shifts currently available. No heavy lifting.
Please call 802-860-8265



New,
local,
scam-
free
jobs
posted
every
day!

sevendaysvt.com/classifieds

Advanced Concert Ticket Sales

Join our dynamic company to assist individuals in their live music experience.

At 10:00 am, we'll meet you.

After our training, let's explore with weekly time incentive program and complete training.

- Experience helpful, interactive
- Management opportunity after 6 months
- No 40-hour/4-week
- Flexible schedule for us

Working [highly motivated], some essential people with good communication skills.

For interview call

802-652-9629.



Senior Reporting Analyst Office of Development & Alumni Relations

Seeking energetic, analytical and systematic person to be responsible for database queries and report design in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Be responsible for the overall reporting data maintenance and integrity, and business processes that are involved in maintaining the Development and Alumni Relations data in the comprehensive integrated database. Support the information needs of offices across campus that require information housed in the Development Office (including but not limited to financial audit reports, mailing lists and research reports). Serve as a liaison to the Information Systems department and be responsible for helping to write and maintain office procedures, leveling gift entry, data entry and ensuring reporting. Troubleshoot problems and create procedures and documentation. Aid in the training of staff users within the department.

The position requires a high degree of experience with large-scale data maintenance, an in-depth understanding of common file structures within educational databases, superior analytic abilities, and broad experience in reporting across a variety of software applications.

A 4-year degree or equivalent combination of education and experience plus 3 to 5 years relevant experience is required. The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, MS Excel, MS Access and report writing software familiarity.

Knowledge of Database's Benefactor and Colleague Advancement systems. Intrastate Informer or ASG Sales reporting tools, relevant experience in a fundraising or nonprofit office and experience in a higher education setting is preferred.

Submit a resume and cover letter online at www.champlain.edu/employment. The successful completion of a criminal background check is required as a condition of employment. Review of applications to begin immediately position opens and filled.

Champlain College values, respects and encourages diversity of backgrounds, cultures and perspectives of students, faculty and staff. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Vermont Public Interest Research Group

HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

VPIRG is looking for an exceptional advocate to join our fight for high-quality, affordable health care for all Vermonters. This is the ideal position for an experienced advocate looking to ride on a hot issue in a state that's willing to lead. While specific health care policy experience is a plus, it's critical that you have a proven track record of effective campaign planning and advocacy. Most have a passion for public interest issues and a sense of how to leverage grassroots momentum to achieve legislative and policy change. This is a full time, exempt position based in Montpelier.

Requires 3+ years experience in public policy advocacy including campaign planning, message development and testing, coalition work, and direct advocacy work. Must be politically strategic, media savvy and proven strong writing and public speaking skills. Health care policy experience is a plus. A full job description is available on our website.

Competitive salary, employer-paid health, dental and disability insurance, matching 401(k) contributions, generous leave time. VPIRG is an equal opportunity employer. Submit cover letter, resume and writing sample via email only to collaborating.org.



For more info visit www.vpirg.org

VPIRG, 144 Main St., #5, Montpelier, VT 05602
#802-223-5221 #802-223-6855

We're adding to our .NET development team!

To make the team, you'll need a strong technical background, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to creatively and effectively solve problems.

Once on board, you'll be expected to write neat, efficient code with in-line documentation, and to test and document your work for the end user.

Qualified candidates have experience with VB.Net, Visual Studio, SQL, ASP.NET, HTML, XHTML, JavaScript/JQuery, and source control software - Java, CVS, CVS, Subversion, or Cruise Control. Experience with it required, but wouldn't hurt!

This full time position - in our Middlebury office's friendly, professional environment - comes with a great benefits package and an emphasis on personal/professional life balance. (For details see www.coopinsurance.com/job.htm.)

Based in Middlebury, Co-operative Insurance Companies provides financial security to home, auto, farm and small business owners across VT and NH. Our 70 employees are dedicated to offering top-notch service to our Co-op members.

Interested? Before 3/6/15, send a resume and cover letter to jobs@coi.net or

Human Resources
Co-operative Insurance Companies
PO Box 3890
Middlebury, VT 05753



recruiting?

CONTACT

MICHELLE:
865-1020 x21

michelle@sevendaysvt.com

SEVEN DAYS



DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Grounds for Health is a Vermont-based, non-profit research, education, and treatment organization. Join our talented opportunity for a dynamic, experienced development specialist with outstanding writing and communication skills. Candidates responsible for all aspects of fundraising, grant writing, volunteer relations and networking. Success is a direct result. Please email resume.

Interviews: March 12. Start date: immediate. Send resume to info@groundsforshealth.org

Grounds for Health
30 South Main Street, 3rd
Windsor, VT 05091
info@groundsforshealth.org

Grounds
for Health
No future or ongoing
relationship with
any other organization.



Bagel Market is looking for part time help for baking bagels and prep. Starting at \$10/hour, 3-4 mornings a week, Monday-Friday

We are also looking for part-time counter help 3-4 days a week, Monday-Friday 9:30a-1:00p

Please come in and fill out an application if you are interested.

30 State Wilson Rd., Essex Junction



Northeastern Family Institute
Serving Homeless Children, Families & Communities Together

Residential Counselor - Shelburne House

The Shelburne House Program of NFI Vermont is seeking a Residential Counselor Shelburne House is a residential program that provides assessment and stabilization services to male teenagers, ages 13-18. Responsibilities include: counseling youth, ADL, (activity, daily learning), assisting with living skills and assisting in treatment. Experience working with teenagers with emotional and behavioral challenges desired. BA in psychology or related field highly desirable. This is a full-time position with a comprehensive benefits package.

Awake Overnight Counselor - Shelburne House

The Awake Overnight Counselor provides supervision and support to the youth during the sleeping hours. Experience working with teenagers with emotional and behavioral challenges desired. BA in psychology or related field highly desirable. This is a full-time position with a comprehensive benefits package.

Send cover letter and resume to Jaime Wark, 771 Essex Rd. Suite 1, Williston, VT, 05495 or email Jaime.Wark@nfi.com.

WWW.NFI.ORG



DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

Johnson State College is a dynamic liberal arts college located in northern Vermont. The Counseling Center seeks a full-time Director to administer the services and functions of the counseling center provide counseling services to students, manage emergency crisis intervention services and be available for all hours crisis support.

The successful candidate for this position will possess a Master's degree in counseling or related field, doctorate desirable, appropriate licensure or certification, plus minimum five years of relevant experience, with community mental health background and desirable.

A broad knowledge base related to counseling theories and techniques, outstanding counseling skills, including crisis intervention, with experience with counseling issues of young adults (drug and alcohol use, abuse, sexual issues, eating disorders, family relationships, etc.) is essential. Good planning, administrative, supervisory skills and public presentation skills are required.

A full job description is available at www.jsc.edu. Review of applications will begin April 1, 2011 and will be accepted until the position is filled. Send a completed job application (available at www.jsc.edu/employment), cover letter and resume and 3 references to jackson@jacksonstatecollege.edu OR 252 Harmon Resources, 327 College Hill, Johnson, VT, 05666.

JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

The Work You Do in a Day... Will Last Forever

YOUTH CHRISTIANITY COORDINATOR (M) Herndon, VT The Nature Conservancy (TNC) the world's largest environmental conservation organization seeks outstanding leaders to play a crucial role in conserving and with people who live in a 14,000-acre forest in Vermont approximately Jan. 15 - Sep. 3, 2012 at the Southern Lake Champlain Valley (housing available if needed). Complete application due by May 15, 2012.

Details, job description and requirements available at: www.nature.org/conservation/Herndon-Vermont. Click on "New Positions" (left sidebar) "Herndon" "Vermont" "Anytime" (Click on "Apply" Click on link to job opening of choice. To apply click on "Apply Now".

For assistance with the online application system, send an email to applyhelp@tnc.org. 508.

The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Transitional Services for Youth and Families



TSF is a small, private nonprofit organization providing therapeutic social and educational programming to youth and families coping with emotional and behavioral challenges. Our multiple programs and services work to identify the strengths of each individual and family as well as develop action steps that promote an increased sense of self and community. The part of an education and social services team dedicated to providing care services and learning outcomes. We are currently seeking to fill the following positions:

Program Support Specialist

Responsibilities include: program coordination, case management, team leadership, supportive counseling, and strategic based behavioral intervention. Bachelor's degree required, preferably in Social Work. Experience working with at-risk youth required. Strong organizational, communication and leadership skills needed.

Send cover letter and resume via email to careers@tsfny.org.



**United Way
of Vermont**



Housing Information and Referral Specialist

Worked 2-1-1 a statewide telephone information and referral program of the United Way of Vermont. In working a part time Housing Information and Referral Specialist to answer evening calls Monday - Friday. The position also includes on-call hours for nights and weekends to support staff by phone.

The 2-1-1 Housing Information and Referral Specialist will have individual and shared responsibility and accountability for delivering quality professional information and referral as well as administrative tasks to the program staff. The position is a full-time position with a salary range of \$12,000 - \$15,000. The position requires the following emergency housing and safety training.

The ideal candidate will have an associate's or bachelor's degree in human services OR an associate's degree plus a minimum of one year of experience working in human services. Interested persons should send a cover letter and resume by May 12 to Colby College, United Way, 2-1-1, 412 Portland Street, Suite 200, South Burlington, VT 05403 or colby@colby.edu.

United Way of Cheshire County is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



**Land a
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with
SEVEN DAYS

www.sevendays.com

Garden Centers Job Fairs

3:00—5:30 pm
Thursdays, March 4 and March 11

Williston Garden Center
427 Marshall Avenue, Williston

Spring is just around the corner and our very busy spring/summer season is about to begin! We're looking for avid gardeners, reliable and quick learners who are enthusiastic, outgoing, upbeat (no matter what), flexible, team oriented and who will thrive in a busy store! Ability to work weekends is a must.

Customer Service Associates: Previous customer service experience is strongly preferred.

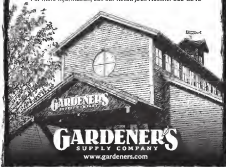
Yard Associates: Work outdoors! Must be able to lift 50 pounds.

Green Goods Sales Associates: Outdoor work. Sales experience a must; basic horticultural knowledge preferred.

Delivery and Installation Associates: Landscaping experience, valid Vermont Driver's License, able to lift 70 lbs.

Commercial Associates: Landscaping experience, customer service skills, able to lift 70 lbs.

For more information, call our Retail Jobs Hotline: 660-3518



ON-ORDER SERVICE, TWO-PRICE, FIDELITY, NOT FIDELITY

Start-up manufacturing company seeks a self-starter, able to work in an unsupervised environment and experienced in manufacturing operations. Responsibilities include: Assembling and ability to rework. Exact specifications with formulae used and overhead marking, inventory reporting, inventory administration and HR. Working knowledge of Word, Power Point and Outlook. A working knowledge of a Manufacturing Requirements Planning System and updating necessary parameters required for the delivery of customer orders. Good communication, attention and presentation skills. Not required but fluency in Korean a plus. Ed. 2 year AAS and/or equivalent 3 years experience required.

Respond by mail only to:

GM, MVTI,
34 Main Park,
PO Box 3432,
Williston, VT 05495



NORWICH
UNIVERSITY

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

Seeking successful administrators to manage a team of professionals who coordinate programs, events and services to strengthen relationships with alumni, students, parents, friends and donors of Norwich University. Serve as primary liaison for alumni and volunteer relations to the Board of Trustees, Alumni Association Board, Museum and Gold Advertiser Association and Parent & Family Association. Lead and execute technology strategies to support and enhance the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. Significant travel event and weekend responsibilities.

Requires master's bachelor's degree, master's preferred. Experience in managing professional staff and planning and executing effective fund-raising strategies required. Successful in successful work with volunteer boards and leadership, superior written and oral communication skills, initiative, focus, motivation and the ability to work collegially and build successful relationships.

Please visit our website www.norwich.edu/jobs for further information. To apply submit cover letter and resume to Assistant VP Search via email: jph@norwich.edu.

Norwich University is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering a comprehensive benefit package that includes medical, dental, group life and long-term disability insurance, flexible spending accounts for health and dependent care, retirement savings plan and tuition scholarships for eligible employees and their family members.

C-16 jobs

03 03 12 03 10 12

ATTENTION RECRUITERS:

POST YOUR JOBS AT SEVENBAYSVT.COM/JOBS FOR FAST RESULTS
OR CONTACT MICHELLE BROWN: MICHELLE@SEVENBAYSVT.COM

RESTAURANT MANAGER

The Pumphouse Tap & Grill
160 Bank Street, ETV

Write a gastropub dedicated to supporting our local farms with a tap room, beer bar, community scheduled to open this summer. Looking for a **Restaurant Manager** to join the team overseeing shift managers and dining room staff. Job requirements: positive attitude, extensive commitment to superior guest service, lots of **ENERGY**, committed to quality in everything you do, sense of humor. Apply via email: JBH@pumphouse.com **THANKS!**

Full-Time Customer Service Person

for large retail order company. Job includes, but is not limited to, order taking by phone, picking orders from large, complex inventory, preparing orders to ship, inventory and preparing for trade shows. You must be very detail oriented and organized, have excellent customer service skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Please send a letter showing how you fit our requirements along with a resume to:

RAE, PO Box 349,
East Montpelier, VT 05551.
NO phone calls, please.

RECEPTIONIST ADMIN ASSISTANT

Primary duties include: scheduling appointments, phone calls and correspondence, maintaining calendar, preparing correspondence, mail distribution, full range of light administrative duties. Experience with Excel and Word is a must.

Candidate must possess good oral organizational skills and have the ability to prioritize and re-prioritize workload.

Interested applicants please send resume and references to:

Attn: Dave
PO Box 1204
South Burlington, VT
05403-2104

FROM ADDICTION TO RECOVERY

Our Primary Care Unit is seeking **Per Diem RN and LPN staff** available to work all shifts including evenings and nights.

Explore opportunities to learn and grow professionally in the specialty area of addiction and co-occurring disorders. Excellent pay and benefits. Come grow with us.

Mail or fax resumes for:

Mople Leaf Form
10 Mople Leaf Road
Underhill, VT 05409

802-899-2911 Fax 802-899-9965

email: info@mopleleaf.org



Front Desk Manager

Integrative health practice has opening for a friendly and professional receptionist with excellent computer skills. Scheduling, cash receipts, charge entry and chart management.

Phlebotomy and vital skills appreciated. Bilingual, reliable and flexible. Knowledge of wellness and nutrition a plus.

Part-time to full-time position with potential for growth.

Please apply if previous experience in health care.

Fax: 802-878-0022

FrontDesk@IntegrativeHealth.com

New Positions at the Intervale Center

The Intervale Center is a nonprofit organization located in Burlington, VT, whose mission is to strengthen local food systems.

Spring Planting Crew Members and Crew Leaders: Work with the Intervale Conservation Nursery to plant trees this spring. We have four planting projects from April 12 to May 28. Two planting projects are needed to plant riparian forested buffers alongside farm fields. Applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions and be able to work quickly and efficiently within set timelines. Positions are 40 hours per week and completed.

Buildings and Grounds Coordination: Assist the Intervale Center with the planning and repair, renovation and rebuilding, or agricultural land along the Winoche River and our green house. Some responsibilities include: knowledge of carpentry, agriculture, landscape and electrical systems, a helpful, experienced operating chainsaw, chain saw and power tools a must. This position is part time, 16-20 hours per week, starting April 1.

The Intervale Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

To apply please send resume and cover letter to:
Andrea Tardif, andrea@intervale.org, by March 17, 2012

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT

Director of Student Support Services Montpelier

We seek an energetic and innovative leader for the recently created Student Support Services position. This role involves student advisement and directly has a strong interest in supervisor. We are looking for someone who is able to provide leadership and guidance to the staff and to the students. The position will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures and for the training of staff in a collaborative environment.

Five years experience in higher education or related field with a degree and/or certification required. Position requires excellent communication skills, an ability to work both independently and collaboratively, knowledge of ADA, financial aid and transfer issues. Experience working with community and academically disadvantaged college students preferred. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures and for the training of staff in a collaborative environment.

CCV strongly encourages applications from members of ethnic minority groups and other under-represented backgrounds. CCV is an Equal Opportunity Employer in compliance with ADA regulations.

FLETCHER ALLEN & YOU



PERFECT TOGETHER

Director PRISM REGIONAL

PRISM Regional is a subsidiary of Fletcher Allen Health Care. We are seeking a Director of PRISM Regional to oversee the clinical and business functions of the regional health care system. The position will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures and for the training of staff in a collaborative environment.

The Director will be responsible for all aspects of PRISM Regional, including but not limited to: budget oversight and management of personnel, clinical and business functions of the regional health care system.

Master's Degree and 10 or more years experience in a progressively responsible administrative position with experience managing in a health care or business environment preferred.



Apply at www.fletcherallen.org
Fletcher Allen only offers a top quality work environment.
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V

**UNEMPLOYED? RETIRED?
WANT TO RE-ENTER THE JOB MARKET?
PAID JOB TRAINING IS AVAILABLE...**

Here while you learn job-specific skills.
Must be age 55 or over, income eligible, unemployed.
Vermont Association for Training & Development, Inc.

Call today for information:
Bernie Montpelier Office:
802-428-0316

Wilmington Office: 802-462-6367
or 802-451-5887
Middlebury Office:
802-771-9473

St. Albans/Quebec Office:
802-488-9998
St. Johnsbury Office:
802-748-6535

Springfield Office: 802-485-1431
Storrs Office: 802-282-4423
or 802-282-4425



VERMONT COURT SYSTEM
Service to Justice. Service To Others.

Recruitment Notice: COURT IMPROVEMENT
AND INNOVATION PROGRAMS MEAN US22

This position is located in the Vermont Judiciary's Division of Court Improvement and Innovation, responsible for strategic planning, new program development, grant management, public information and outreach, and adoption of judicial court and justice system innovations. Required qualifications include: experience with direct supervision of staff; grant development and administration; high level of general court with diverse technology; proven experience in systems and program development; and working knowledge of program and services of the Vermont Judicial Branch.

Work is performed with considerable latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and evaluative thinking. Education requirements require a master's degree in public administration, business administration, judicial administration, education or organizational development, or related master's degree or Juris Doctor or license to practice law in the State of Vermont.

The ideal candidate for this position will have the personal qualities of integrity and energy and a strong performance for collaborative problem solving. For more information on salary and job description, see the Vermont Judiciary career website at www.vermontjudiciary.org. An equal opportunity employer.

Mail: 109 State St. Montpelier VT 05602-0701
Telephone: 802-428-3276 • Fax: 802-428-3437
www.vermontjudiciary.org

Join the team at Gardener's Supply Company! We work hard AND offer a fun place to work with summer house games, BBQs, pre-preg. furnishings, appliances, garden plots and much more! We also offer stress / cultural / rehab, computer, yoga and outdoor/indoor benefits (including a tremendous discount on plants & products).

**Database Developer/
Administrator**

Our IT team is looking for an individual that has a solid understanding of software development concepts and math education, relational database design, object oriented programming and .NET architecture. You will be working in an environment that values industry recognized best practices to build and deploy secure, extensible, reliable, and maintainable applications. You will be expected to work with other members of the IT team and different business units to translate requirements into smart solutions using the Microsoft technology stack (Dynamics AX, .Net, SQL Server, SharePoint, Exchange, and MS). The team will be counting on you to perform the database administration tasks for our SQL and Oracle servers to keep them running at peak performance.

We are an employee owned company and America's leading catalog & web based gardening company! Interested? Please send your resume letter & resume to Gardener's Supply Company, 126 Interstate Rd., Burlington, VT 05401 or to John@operations.com



GARDENER'S
SUPPLY COMPANY
www.gardens.com



HOLISTIC: "Emphasizing the integration of the whole and the individuality of its parts."
FLEXIBILITY: "Capable to meet future or changing conditions."

These are some of the attributes Adirondack County Home Health and Hospice subscribers are used to, and so is our professional staff. We DO have a holistic approach toward each staff member, considering both their personal and professional growth. We DO operate in a culture of flexibility allowing for your desire for growth, need for support and the unexpected. NO weekends, NO nights! Spend some time with us exploring these positions and find out for yourself!

FULL-TIME PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Qualifications include a current Vermont Physical Therapy license and a minimum of two years of experience, preferably within a rehabilitation program.

FULL-TIME COMMUNITY HEALTH RNs
Two 40-hour/week positions

Qualifications and adequate experience in a medical surgical environment and a current Vermont license.

Please visit our website at www.dchh.org and apply directly online. Or please send your resume to apostolov@adchh.org or to ADCHH, Human Resources, PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753. For your resume to **RECEIVE** full staff or drop by for an application and interview. We look forward to hearing from you!

CIRCUS SMIRKS

**Circus Smirkus
Deputy Director**

Award winning professional circus with a focus on quality, safety, and fun. We are looking for a Deputy Director to oversee all circus operations, leadership and management.

Directly manages finance, admin IT and human resources. Responsible for securing events and planning the implementing improvements to internal systems and processes including IT.

50+ business or related field and support experience preferred. Senior management experience required. Position is non-union, benefits and occasional travel outside the state and travel required.

Please email resume to owner@circus-smirkus.org with salary requirements to circus-smirkus.org by 3/26

smirkus.org

**TEACHER
2010-2011
FULL-TIME POSITION
WITH BENEFITS**

The Great Plaines French School is seeking an experienced teacher who is committed to the French school program which offers an integrated approach to a comprehensive community education program for the individual, the family and the community to the north, south and east. The school reflects the values of the French school program. The school is a new school with a modern, historic approach for children ages 5-14.

The Great Plaines French School welcomes all teachers and staff and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability in recruitment or in the employment process, recruitment or hiring process and other school activities.

Send your resume, letter of introduction and three references to: Annie Gauthier, School Director
Green Mountain French School

stephen@cmfrench.org
www.cmfrench.org

C-18 jobs

03 03 12 03 10 12

ATTENTION RECRUITERS:

POST YOUR JOBS AT SEVENDAYSVT.COM/JOBS FOR FAST RESULTS
OR CONTACT MICHELLE BROWN MICHELLE@SEVENDAYSVT.COM

Full-Time Cleaning Person

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Joanne Davis,
Business Manager
Maple Leaf Farm
Associates, Inc.
10 Maple Leaf Rd.
Underhill, VT 05489

Phone: 802-899-2011
Fax: 802-899-3412
Email: info@mapleleaf.org
EOE



Experienced, Part-Time Bookkeeper Merrimack, VT

Local nonprofit (affordable housing) seeks bookkeeper with double entry accounting/property rental and payroll admin. experience. Must be able to read and prepare financial statements and work with outside CPA, third-party property management accounting staff, and auditors. Several tax partnerships involved.

Knowledge of MS products (Word, Excel) required. Prior experience within property management field preferred. Knowledge of MSRP (Single or multiple software a plus. Send resume and hourly rate requirements to admin@housingsolutions.org

References required



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Contact Katie at 802-478-7821 or katie@leapsnbounds.org



Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Vermont Network is seeking a dynamic public relations expert to fill a newly created position with our organization.

Community Outreach Coordinator

The Community Outreach Coordinator will develop, implement and sustain a comprehensive communications plan for the VT Network. The ideal candidate will have a background in public relations, and a vision for using social marketing and community engagement strategies to create social change and strengthen support for the organization and its member programs.

This is a supervisory position, providing oversight and leadership for the Social Change Team in the development of an integrated strategy for maximizing opportunities for social change. The position is full-time (40 hours/week) and includes a competitive salary and benefits package.

Qualifications include:

- An combination of experience and education equal to a BA or master's degree in a communications, education, business services or a related field, or a master's degree in a related field;
- Minimum of three years volunteer or professional experience in communications, public relations or marketing;
- Minimum of three years experience supervising staff;
- Minimum of three years experience conducting major programs or initiatives;
- In-depth knowledge of domestic and sexual violence issues;
- In-depth knowledge of social marketing and/or community engagement strategies or theory;
- A demonstrated commitment to anti-oppression work and ending violence against women;
- Ability and commitment to working within a team model to achieve organizational goals;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent group facilitation skills.

Send a cover letter and resume to karen@vtnetwork.org by March 22. The Vermont Network is an EOE.

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DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON HOME sought for a creative young woman who loves to read, write and gaming. She enjoys fast jog walking, kayaking and hiking. Ideal candidate is a single female who considers a quiet home. Mark Prior, 458-6580

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ACTIVE 29-SOMETHING WOMAN seeks a dynamic, nurturing, patient, and encouraging home. Rachel Marisa, 458-6580 or RM@vctcyt.com

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ACTIVE 21-YEAR-OLD WOMAN seeks Burlington area home to continue developing independent living skills. She enjoys photography, computers, & exercising. Ideal candidate is an active female or couple with no children under home. Sarah or Rachel, 458-6580 or arachel@vctcyt.com

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VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WRITING AND LITERATURE

Johnson State, a small, dynamic liberal arts college in Vermont, with a strong BA in creative writing and BA programs in literature and journalism, seeks a full-time, visiting assistant professor in Writing and Literature for the 2010-2011 school year. The position will begin in August 2010. Reappointment to a second year is possible. The individual offered the position will be an excellent teacher, committed to the undergraduate education of creative writing majors and to nonmajors enrolled in General Education courses offered through the department. Applicants should have an MFA in creative writing or a PhD in literature, preferably with a creative dissertation. He or she should be a writer of fiction with significant publications and experience in literary magazine publication; as a graduate-level intern, faculty adviser, or editor; interest and experience in expository writing instruction and assessment are desirable.

The successful candidate will teach four courses per semester, including introductory courses in composition and creative writing, upper-level workshops, and form and theory courses in fiction, and courses in literature, depending upon departmental needs. Additional expectations include academic advising, continued scholarship and professional development, and participation through teaching and service in a collegial commitment to early and ongoing student success.

Review of applications will begin in March 2010 and continue until the position is filled. Candidates should send a letter of intent, a statement of teaching philosophy, a curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation and a completed JSC application (available at www.jsc.edu/employment) to jchumanresources@jsc.edu or to Dr. Andrea Perham, c/o JSC Human Resources, Department of Writing and Literature, Johnson State College, 337 College Hill, Johnson, VT, 05656.

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Day Camp Counselors, Soccer Coaches, Water Safety Instructor.

Log on to www.colchestervt.gov for an application or call (802) 261-5640 EOE

What do these people have in common?



David Lindner
Shelburne NJ, Manager



Ben Stevens
Fall Church, English



Anne Hry
East Hill, Mount Vernon



Abby Chavira
BPOC, English



Michelle Quares
CPS, Spanish



Scott Caring
Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon

They all pursued their passion!

If you enjoy working with young people, have strong content knowledge, and a Bachelor's degree, check out the CCPS Teacher Apprenticeship Program, a 6-month Vermont teacher licensure program for career changers. Admission for Fall 2010 is now open!

Information Session

March 16, 2010
9:00 - 1:00 PM
Essex High School



www.ccpsvt.org (TAP)
or contact Scott Mosher at 802-238-0637/smosher@ccpsvt.org

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145 Pine Haven Shore Road, Shelburne, VT 05482
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Doughnuts WPIR

small, pillow crown on top. Nothing else of the more bulbous muffins on the rack, I congratulate myself on my apparent triumph.

Hubbard does not approve of my back-sleeping. "Don't compare yours to someone else's," she calls out to the class. "If you're happy with what you made, that's fine."

But not so fast. I still have to remove the muffins from the tin. I turn the mold upside down, expecting them to fall right out like my neighbor's did. Instead of popping out like should: little pastries, they cling to the sides of the tin like obstreperous children. I have to sit violent. I shove the edges of the muffins away from their captives



Making doughnuts

and hang the tin on the table. Outcome: 12 sugary golden nuggets.

The last step involves demolding the muffins in melted butter and dredging them in a mix of sugar and freshly ground Saigon cinnamon, which Hubbard tells us is cultivated in Vietnam and is more potent than the more common Indonesian variety. Most grocery stores carry both varieties, we're told.

As the muffins cool on the table, they taste me for their starchy sugar shell. I see no reason why I shouldn't eat them all right there. But a few bites of the surprisingly rich treats are all I can handle. I need to save myself for the energy chasers and jam-filled breakfasts still to come.

I'm glad I have exercised self-control, because the other two fried dough items here are just as fun as interesting to eat, and to

DOUGHNUT MUFFINS

Recently got outmug and a crunchy cinnamon sugar topping give these muffins all the soft, sticky flavor of a cake doughnut without the deep-frying process. They're easy to eat for your health, but they will show your day off severely.

Ingredients

For the dough:
1 1/2 cups (300g) King Arthur golden flour
1 1/2 cups (300g) baking powder
1/2 cup (100g) salt
1/2 cup (100g) sugar
1/2 cup (100g) oil
1/2 cup (100g) egg whites
1/2 cup (100g) milk
1/2 cup (100g) vanilla extract
1/2 cup (100g) cinnamon

For the topping

4 tablespoons (2 ounces) unsalted butter, melted
1/2 cup (100g) sugar
1/2 cup (100g) cinnamon

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease 12 muffin cups with baking spray. Soften the butter, and mix the sugar, salt, and cinnamon.

In a standing mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together the butter and the sugar, mixing until the mixture is smooth and fluffy. Be careful to scrape down the sides of the bowl so that all the sugar is absorbed by the butter.

Add the eggs, and mix on low until a firm, sticky dough is formed.

With the mixer set at very low speed, alternately add the flour and baking powder to the batter, mixing well.

When the batter is smooth, mix in the cinnamon, sugar, and salt.

Divide the batter into 12 equal portions, and place in the muffin cups.

Bake for 15 minutes, or until the tops are golden brown and springy to the touch.

While the doughnuts bake, prepare the topping. Melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add the sugar, cinnamon, and salt, and mix well.

When the doughnuts are done, brush them with the melted butter.

—Courtesy of King Arthur Flour

note: I could sit on in front of the deep fryer for hours watching the churros and beignets dance in the bubbling oil. Which is why I can never have a deep fryer.

The real test of my cooking class is whether students can reproduce the recipes at home without an instructor giving them by-the-numbers. I'm pleased to report that, with a one-on-one reading, my students are better than I am. I was surprised to find that, with a one-on-one reading, my students are better than I am. I was surprised to find that, with a one-on-one reading, my students are better than I am.

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Beautiful Loser

Seven Days tracks down Vermont-based songwriter Neko Case

BY DAN ROLLES

T hat Neko Case brought an old farmhouse in the Northeast Kingdom might have been the biggest local music news of 2004 not involving Blink. Not that you would have known it from reading local papers. While most Vermont media outlets make note, in some fashion, of the songwriter's arrival, none were initially able to contact her about it directly. Instead, we read of a bare full of poems and rhythmic pictures in rags like the *New York Times* and *Rare* magazine. And we waited.

Part of the issue is that Case is famously guarded about her personal life and prefers to keep publicity to a minimum. And with good reason: Her encounters with artists in recent years have been well documented.

The other thing is simply that Neko Case is one busy lady. Last year saw the release of her most widely acclaimed record to date, *Middle Cyclone*, her second for the Anti- label. The album debuted at number three on the *Billboard* charts and was nominated for two Grammy awards (Best Contemporary Folk Album and Best Album Packaging). Case toured extensively and reached the height of her professional visibility to date. Somewhere, she also found time to work on a new record with her "old" band, legendary Canadian rockers The New Pornographers, set for release this spring. No wonder Case took to get this off.

But get ahead of her we did, after considerable effort. In absence of her upcoming benefit show on St. Johnsbury for Caramount Arts, Seven Days chatted with Case by phone from her home in the Northeast Kingdom—where she was fixing her calendar.

SEVEN DAYS: After you moved you said in several interviews that Vermont was one of the only places you ever truly felt like you fit in. After living here for a year, do you still feel that way?



NEKO CASE: I still feel that I made the greatest decision ever. I mean, it was a decision I would have made a lot earlier in my life if I had more financial freedom. But now that I'm a adult, I can do things like move, which is kinda nice. But I can actually move to where I want to live. But I'm lucky that where I want to live wasn't San Francisco or some thing. I wouldn't have been able to afford that. Or New York City. That would have been a real bummer.

SD: But you've moved around quite a bit. What was it about Vermont that spoke to you?

NC: It was just a very unique kind of kindness that people here. You're very inclusive, Vermonters. So even if you meet super dorked locals who were you as a total outsider, they are still kind. I think the worst you'll get as far as "intensity" or whatever you want to call it, is that people might have a good pile of your expense, which I'm pretty sure Vermonters have a great sense of humor.

SD: That we do. So the upcoming show is a benefit for Caramount Arts. How did you become involved with them?

NC: It's kind of the hub of the Northeast



Say Hey, Kids

positively affecter with gushing praise for their elegant debut full-length, *To Travel Is To Thrive*. Count our vocal affinity among the growing chorus singing the seven-piece ethereal pop ensemble's virtues. Whether through regressive symphonic bombast or hushed, intimate confessions, this young group artfully reveals sophisticated and bionic pop soundlines with charming dramatic flair. On Wednesday March 18 they'll appear at the Higher Ground Theatre Lounge. Local outlets www.102.7fm.com and www.94.1fm.com

From Julia Winkler (jwinkler@uconn.edu) to 303@uconn.edu, 2006-05-05 (Wed), 10:40:00 AM

BOOK REVIEW by A. Lee with Matt Hughes and

Marx (1849) [norman-coral] 4 p.m. Fort Station
Rhythmic deeps [rocky-shelf] 8 p.m. 12 Master
Rocks used in museum. 100

RED DELANTE PATE: CJ Martin (phone) 3 p.m. 12
 RED DELANTE PATE: Ed Jeremy (phone) 3 p.m. 12

EDITH PARCER, *Journalism & Media Studies*

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MARKET LEADERS MarketLeader(country) < p.m. Free

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—The Boston Herald January 1984



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SKI & RIDE SCHEDULE 2010

March 5: Sugarbush

March 12: Bolton Valley

March 19: Killington

March 21: Pico (Sunday)

March 26: Stowe

April 2: Jay Peak



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5 | DANCE

Hip-Hop Hooray!

THE STORY

Friday March 5, 8:30 A & 8:30 p.m., at
Hagner Grounds, Pittsburgh in South
Pittsburgh. Box 18. Info: 838-0373
www.hagnergroundstheatre.com

Shakespeare and hip-hop? G, what men dare do! Urban Dance Complex puts a fresh spin on the *Romeo and Juliet*-inspired *West Side Story* by threading evocative pop-and-lock moves through the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers. *The Story* features 50 dancers (ages 10 to 19) from all corners of the state drawing on East and West Coast styles in time to songs such as Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind." "I felt like it was time to push the envelope a bit," says director-choreographer Sarah Gaver, explaining that previous UDC productions, such as *Hard Knock Life* and *The O.Z.*, didn't tackle such serious storylines. Two performances running an hour and 20 minutes each steal the stage this Friday. Jets versus Sharks...go!

All Work and No Play

Whether you're at the top of the work chain or just starting out, Frank Lussner's *They Succeed—How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* exposes the wobbly underbelly of employment as a fun musical song anyone can relate to. SUNY Pittsburg's music and theater departments team up to spin the tale of window-washer-turned-corporate-ladder-climber J. Purport Finch. Following a hard-to-lose, Finch implements wily tricks to earn promotion after promotion—but at what cost? Those true love into the mix, and the humorous play becomes a "cautionary tale about putting business before relationships," says director Kim Hartsborn. A line band adds spark to upbeat song-and-dance numbers such as "A Secretary Is Not a Toy" and "The Company Way." Tune in for workplace lessons your employee handbook doesn't cover.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING!
Thursday March 4, through Saturday March 6, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday March 7, 2 p.m., at Hartman Theatre, Myerline Arts Building, SUNY Pittsburg.
Box 18. Info: 838-0373, www.pittsburgh.edu



4-7 | THEATER

Liar, Liar

Desert island adventures with giant octopi, sea turtles and aboriginal natives are generally the stuff of fiction. But one man claimed to have experienced it all, and the Vermont Stage Company tells his story in a production of Donald Margulies' *Alpenaero! Louis de Runggenberg's unseasoned sailor charmed Victorian-era London, but he was later sentenced to the "greatest loss on Earth."* With just three actors and an engaging sound effects man, the VSC's production is really "a Valentine to the art of imagination," offers director Mark Nash. Using bare-bones props — flowing fabric symbolizes octopus tentacles, for example — the play poses a question, says Nash: "If a story is really good... does it matter if it's true or not?" You decide.

SHEPWICKED!

Wednesday March 18, 7:30 p.m., at the FireSpace in Burlington. View theater for future takes through March 26. \$14.30. 33.50 info: 863-3663; www.vsc.org



10 | THEATER

7 | FASHION

Fashionably Early

By March, the Vermont winter uniforms of puffy down parkas, scarf and snow boots as you play it out to park benches and shoveling. Phobosians feast their eyes on far more tempting couture that Sunday "Winter goes a little long here," says Pam Freeman, executive director of Burlington's Kennel McDonald House. "and we thought a Spring Three Fashion Show would give the interests of local ladies." Models volunteering their time to raise funds for RDM charities — which help support the families of seriously ill children receiving care at the Vermont Children's Hospital — preview the season's most stylish duds on the runway. Clay's, Eves, Christopher & Banks and CJ Banks supply attire options ranging from weekend casual to dressy. Cells strains from Manique Chico and a round of tea make this an elegant afternoon affair, as did these DQs when fall next year.

SPRING THAW FASHION SHOW & TEA

Sunday March 7, 4 p.m., at the Kennel McDonald House in Burlington. \$30. Perforians: info: 863-4943; www.rh.vermont.org



calendar

MARCH 3-10, 2010

WED.03

business

PAAL PITCH VENUEBO! In the morning, later afternoon or at sundown (2007), join the local theater business owners at this exciting networking event. Meeting place: Station Square (Bank Street, S. 320 W., 140 p.m. Free info: 863-7334

community

NOVARY CLUB OF EMMET Meet and help build growth and jobs as they organize several events at weekly social meetings. Meetings are not closed to others. The next event is 10 p.m. \$14.50 members. No fee to drop in. Info: 333-3632.

etc.

WINDHAM ROCKS CLUB EVENT Get music on the town of Windham. Join the club for free. Info: 333-3632.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY Open up a new world of knowledge and experience with the experts and artists at the library. Info: 333-3632.

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film

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Friday 10, January 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m., 10 p.m. 14 p.m.

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Attention Parents of Prekindergarten Children (3 and 4 year olds)

The Burlington School District recognizes the importance of high-quality preschool experiences for young children and is participating in Vermont's Act 62. This law provides public education funds through the district to support prekindergarten services.

Important information regarding this law is at
let's move school.org/Preschoolandact62info



One Man Show Ed Asner is "FDR"

Definitely, March 6 at 8 pm, MainStage
"FDR is the president after his generation." —The Hollywood Reporter

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Burlington New Opera
A Local Edition



FAMILY MATINEE Merrill Theatre of Nixa Scottie "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" & Other Eric Carle Favorites

Sunday, March 7 at 3 pm, MainStage
Recommended for ages 3+

"Sweetest puppets, wisest humor and delightful, amazingly graphic drawings. It's a child's play imaginary. It is a gentle delight for all ages, especially for young children." —Los Angeles Times

The Peking Acrobats

Sunday, March 14 at 7 pm www.merilltheatre.com

"Feats of dexterity, intricate, grace, strength and acrobatic acrobatics applied from the stage on a series of pleasurable scenes. One was left wondering if wonder." —Chicago Tribune



calendar

WED 03.04.13

NATIVE PLANTER AND HORTICULTURE Ten folding planters — start at \$10 each — bring high-quality native plants and flowers through the month. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am. \$10. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am.

agreed

ALABAMA FOLK Folk art and folk music from the South and the North. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am. \$10. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am.

FLORIDA FOLK Folk art and folk music from the South and the North. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am. \$10. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am.

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VT IAJE Jazz Student Festival Tuesday, March 8 at 7 pm

10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am. \$10. 10-11:30 am. 10-11:30 am.

FLYNN CENTER

www.flynncenter.org call 84-4555



BROWSE LOCAL EVENTS ON YOUR PHONE
CONTACT 1-800-245-2455 OR VISIT www.flynncenter.org

THE CRUISE Free wine and coffee! Join the 4th AIDS Memorial Wine Cruise! 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 6 at Gallery Burlington, 50 South Union Burlington City Hall members \$5 donation, all others \$10. Info: 863-243-7863

film

FRISK Features snarky comedians who watch a live performance of the famous film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and then perform a comedy sketch about the film. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

NAP THE SKY This event explores all the ways to fly. From the history of the airplane to the future of flight, this event is a must-see for anyone who loves flying. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

THE GELBARTS The Gelbarts family is a comedy troupe that has been performing for over 20 years. They are known for their hilarious sketches and songs. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

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food & drink

PIZZA WINE TASTING Food, drink and fun! Join us for a pizza and wine tasting event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

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sport

HIGHLAND RIDE Join us for a ride on the trails of the Highland Park. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

WINTER FUN Join us for a winter fun event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

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concert

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Religious Church Monday 11-12 p.m. in the church. Info: 863-243-7863

JANUARY The winter months are the best time to visit Vermont. Join us for a winter fun event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

FRI.05

dance

ACQUAINTANCE Join us for a dance event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

DRINK & DANCE Join us for a drink and dance event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

BALLROOM Join us for a ballroom event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

DISCO Join us for a disco event. Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. 100 Main St. Burlington, VT 05401

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"Muscles Not Motors"
Our Annual Winter Bike Sale
Saturday, March 6th
And Sales Tax Holiday

ALL 2008 Model Bikes 50% OFF
Just for this sale only, no other discounts

ALL 2009 Model Bikes 30% OFF
and Deals on Select 2010 Bikes!

and NO Sales Tax!

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Book CELEBRATION SERIES

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Sunday, March 7, 3 pm
Join us for the presentation of Ignat Solzhenitsyn's new book, *The World as I See It*.

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The most exciting new production from the world's best theater company

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The Grand Prize:

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including all meals
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Send receipts
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Seven Days Winter Bites
PO Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402

- 1 Collect your receipts from participating restaurants.
- 2 Send them to Seven Days* by March 26 to be eligible.
- 3 The more receipts you send in, the more chances you have to win!

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Locate, rate & review at sevendaysvt.com/winter-bites/

BURLINGTON

156 Bistro Burlington
A Single Pebble Burlington
Ariana House Burlington
Ariana Noodle Shop Burlington
August First Bakery & Cafe Burlington
City Market Burlington
The Daily Planet Burlington
Fresh Market Burlington
The Green Room Burlington
Hardy's Lunch Burlington
Junior's Italian Burlington
Lake Champlain Chocolates Burlington
Leonardi's Pizzeria Burlington
Loup's Bistro Burlington
Maggie's On Main Burlington
Muddy Waters Burlington
New Moon Cafe Burlington
New World Tamale Burlington
Nem's Grill Burlington
Savie Karta Delicatessen Burlington
Sakana Kana Burlington
The Scoffer Steak and Ale House Burlington
Sevon's Brazilian Steakhouse Burlington
Three Tomatoes Trattoria Burlington
Viva Espresso Burlington

RICHMOND, SO BURLINGTON, WILLISTON

Doc's Place (formerly Nothing But
Hoodies) So Burlington
Ground Round So Burlington
Mesquite Authentic Mexican Grill
Williston
Marty's Old Back Tavern Williston
On the Rise Bakery Richmond
Sushiya Williston
Three Tomatoes Trattoria Williston
Trader Duke's So Burlington
Vermont Sports Grill So Burlington
Wings Over Burlington
Deck Pub So Burlington
Wings Over Burlington
So Burlington

COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ESSEX JUNCTION, WINDSOR

The Boiled Cow Essex Jct
The Black Gallery and Coffeehouse
Winchester
Drunkie Noodle House Essex Jct
The Essex (Vermont's Culinary Resort
& Spa) Essex
Joyce's Noodle House Essex
Junior's Italian Colchester
Loretta's Fine Italian Cuisine
Essex Jct

Ray's Seafood Market Essex
T-ones Restaurant & Bar Colchester
Three Brothers Pizzeria & Grill Colchester
Tiny Thai Restaurant Essex & Windsor

BRISTOL, FERRISBURG, HAUGSBURY, NEW HAVEN, SHELBURNE, VERGENNES, Bridgewater Corners

3 Squares Cafe Vergennes
American Railroad Middlebury
The Bearded Frog Shelburne
Bistro Sauce Shelburne
Black Sheep Bistro Vergennes
Bobcat Cafe Bristol
Long Trail Brewing Company
Bridgewater Corners
Marty's Restaurant at the Inn at
Baldwin Creek Bristol
Open Arms Cafe Shelburne
Sherry Night Cafe Ferrisburg
The Storm Cafe Middlebury
Tourterelle New Haven
Up Top Tavern Vergennes

MORRISVILLE, STOW, WINTSFIELD, WATERBURY

Beck's Knees Montpelier
Big Picture Theater & Cafe Watfield
Green Cup Cafe & Bakery Watfield
Hen of the Wood at the Great Mill
Waterbury
MVT Restaurant & Sea Lounge Watfield
Peasazza Pizzeria & Lounge Stowe
Steau Suhl Waterbury

MONTPELIER, PLAINFIELD, ST. J

Black Deer Bar & Bistro Montpelier
Elements Food & Spirit St Johnsbury
Positive Pie 2 Montpelier
Restaurant Phoebe Montpelier
River Run Restaurant Plainfield
Sanicola's Restaurant & Bar Montpelier

FRANKLIN & ORANDIE COUNTIES

Blue Puddle Bistro So Haro
Chow's Noodle House So Haro
Cosmic Bakery & Cafe St Albans
Oven Fedeliel St Albans
Sheepie Market Enosburg



The SEVEN DAYS Guide to Vermont
Restaurants & Bars

*Receipts must be received by March 26 to be eligible.
sevendaysvt.com/winter-bites

THIS THURSDAY

gather. gab. gawk.



THE COOLER

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Switchback

Thursday, March 4, 5-8pm

Firehouse Gallery, 135 Church Street, Burlington

Switchback, Wine, Dark 'n' Stormys + Free Snacks

Music: J Boom • \$5 donation (free to BCA members)

★ RSVP ON SEVENDAYSVT.COM/COOLER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN 2 FREE LIFT TICKETS AT STOWE ★

Windows on the Worlds

Art review: 'This World, Other World'

In "This World, Other World," the current exhibit at Burlington's Pinehouse Gallery, eight past residents of the Vermont Studio Center depict environments or landscapes that reside in some place away from reality.

An internationally known artists community, the Jekness center has been a haven for artists and writers for 15 years. Like other such facilities, it's a world unto itself, a place of creativity, camaraderie, focus and respite from the "real" world. Perhaps that's what inspired the theme.

The idea came from guest curator David Grossniky, who is the exhibition and admissions coordinator at VSC — a position, he explained at the show's recent opening, that affords him familiarity with the works of artists who do residencies there. Though the selected artists have no affiliation other than their link to the center, Grossniky assembled them for their "otherworldly" artistic explorations. As Pinehouse Gallery manager and assistant curator Amanda Sandilands explains, "David was interested in how artists create a fantastical, alternative reality." The works are like "horizontally scaled corporations," she adds, "where everything is on their own terms. They're playful."

Building and structure are central to the exhibition, which features a mix of paintings and sculptures that probe notions of usefulness, strangeness and familiarity.

In "View," a painting by Judith McBride, a bamboo structure balances precariously on a shiplike hull. Two spindly cranes prop the form up on a narrow platform as it floats in a painterly, turquoise-sea haze. The dronelike vessel, in fact, resembles the iconic Red Bull building at VSC.

Sarah FitzSimons' wooden sculpture "New Construction" is a skyscraper for a large-scale piece she hopes to make. The sculpture begins with the frame-in structure of a barn, and then gradually develops into the framed-in form of a mountain. The transition from bamboo-made to organic structure suggests a parallel psychological shift from the closed spaces of imposed order to the wildly creative permutations of nature.



View by Judith McBride

BUILDING AND STRUCTURE ARE CENTRAL TO THIS EXHIBITION, WHICH FEATURES A MIX OF PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES THAT PROBE NOTIONS OF USEFULNESS, STRANGENESS AND FAMILIARITY.

Within rows of FitzSimons' sculpture, Carrie DeBusson's aluminum-fabricated bamboo structures stand tentatively on a low, white platform. Spindly, lanky and delicate, the constructions resemble oddly angled radio towers, and leak cool diffuse, linear shadows that look like subtle charcoal drawings on the platform. With their slight form and precarious balance, these works echo FitzSimons' fascination with structure but approach it differently. Where FitzSimons' structures are solid yet evoking, DeBusson's are fragile and transient. The two artists' works complement each



New Construction by Sarah FitzSimons

moody washes of gray across the sky steering above. Energetic strokes in the foreground charge the turbid water carrying the spidery radio into the distance, far from any lands that might hold them. The lanky suggests natural disaster — the bamboo-made world carried off by the natural sea.

Perhaps the most eye-catching piece in the show, Karlae Iglesias' suspended sculpture "Draw Back the Bow (or Kill Your Darlings)" spirals high into the gallery space. A kaputated tower composed of materials including tree limbs, brownsticks, logs and vines holds a host of armadillo sticks, seemingly caught in the spiny constructions of skeletal pencils. The piece is simultaneously alive and still, as if depicting a suspended attack on a makeshift fortress. Seeing it is a bit like walking into the climax of a fairy tale without knowing the story — some critical action is afoot, but without obvious context or meaning. The eye evens itself out, between the material fact of the work and the construction it evokes. It's an exciting, disorienting object transported from an imagined world.

If Iglesias' sculpture drops in into an unknown tale, Eric Raschewski's painting "Fronting a Grey and White Object" plunges us into a feeling. A merely flat grey border surrounds a central point; every section that's aware with pastel layers of paint and geometry. Thick white paint in one corner protrudes from a mix of flat and brushy textures. Raschewski creates a tactile interior world of color and intersecting layers. The painting evokes both confusion and clarity, drawing the viewer in for more.

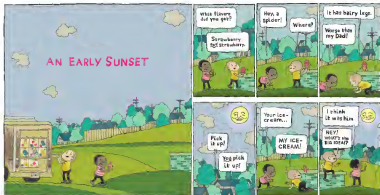
Grossniky described the exhibition as a Wunderkammer, or curiosity cabinet of places. These artists render their imaginary landscapes and structures in the detail, creating vivid glimpses of the worlds they create along with insight into the one we share.

AMY RYAN

other as linked meditations on form and function.

Structures seem to dissolve in Magnus Isacsson's painting "When You Stagger In, I Notice the Void." Red-like seas tumble at angles into a churning sea,

The world often feels "giddy and insubstantial beyond control," says Isacsson. Photo: Studio C/Pinehouse Gallery, Burlington, Vermont, March 17



**THE
END**



Gregory Joseph Linderoth



AN EARLY SUNSET

Joseph Lambert produced from The Central for Cottage Studios in White River Junction, in 2008. He continues to live in White River with his wife and dog.



IGDAW and COMETCIP is a collaboration between Seven Seas and The Centre for Cartoon Studies. InvisiTV gives a fiction featuring cartoonist Matt and presents student's short pieces and archived at sevenseasart.com/center-for-cartoon-studies for more info visit us online at www.cartoonists.org



"Common Passion" The Burn-based Center for Photographic Studies is a nonprofit dedicated to education, outreach and promotion of all things photographic. This month, seven past or present board members show some of their images at the Governor's Office Gallery in Montpelier. While they share a passion, the techniques and subject matter are diverse. Featured: "My Son Taylor (1999-2007)" by Corley Stevens McLaughlin.

BURLINGTON ARTIST SHOWS 42-101

WISDOM TO WISCONSIN: CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY IN PAINTING This intriguing Vermont painter's wife (Landscape Susan Brown), Carrie Carline, Anne DeLano and Kristine Lynn, were collecting the Vermont Collection of the National Museum of American Art. Labeled as an artist by the NMMA, he participated in the art and media series "Washington, D.C. Through March 28 at Amy E. Howard Gallery Photo Center in East Berlin. Info: 802-334-7247

onstaff

ANNE SARGA "A Passion for Change" is presented in the "Wichowings" through April 10 at the 3000-4000 at Montpelier. Info: 202-54-54

ART BY VERMONT: THE KENT COLLECTION A collection of 100 works in the 1920s and 1930s collection of the State of Vermont, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Art in the State Buildings Program. Through April 10 at the State Buildings Montpelier. Info: 202-54-54

BERNARD CORNET & CHARLES CLARK Paintings and drawings by the American master artists. Through June 11 at Highline Gallery in Redlands, Info: 909-909

LEOY HARRIS "A Very Long Road" (1999) is the first of a series of paintings by Harris. Through March 10 at the Vermont State Capitol in Montpelier. Info: 909-909

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DISCOVER THE 19TH-CENTURY QUEST FOR THE ESSENCE OF AMERICAN CULTURE

From the 1840s to the 1890s, American artists and writers sought to define the American identity. This exhibition, featuring the work of 19th-century artists and writers, is a must-see for anyone interested in the history of art and literature. Through April 14 at Middlebury College Museum of Art. Info: 402-221-1111

ROBERT A. GOLD "Cityscapes" digital multimedia prints depicting various perspectives in the urban landscape. Through March 30 at Hawthorne Hotel in New Haven. Info: 203-239-4574

SARAH FIELD "Circles, Spirals, and Other Recent Works" new works by the artist. Through March 30 at Griffin Art Center in Berlin. Info: 203-221-1111

ARTS BY NATURE A series of paintings and prints depicting nature. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

ART WITH A MISSION

Art with a mission: A group of artists and writers are working to create art that is both beautiful and meaningful. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

BLANCHETT NELSON "The Edgecombe paintings" a series of paintings depicting the edge of the world. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

FRANK VANDYKE & GARY BINKLEY "The Edgecombe paintings" a series of paintings depicting the edge of the world. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

SPACE COLLECTION A collection of artwork by many of the artists in the series. Through April 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

HENRI POLLARD "The Edgecombe paintings" a series of paintings depicting the edge of the world. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

LEA PORTER "The Edgecombe paintings" a series of paintings depicting the edge of the world. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

THE PRESS COLLECTION A series of paintings depicting the edge of the world. Through March 30 at the Edgecombe Gallery in Middlebury. Info: 402-221-1111

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movies

Antichrist ★★★★★

When you feel down in the dumps, what do you seek comfort in your family? Pop a pill? Take a vacation? Lars von Trier has his own way of dealing with the blues. He makes one of the most flippant-sarcastic in the history of the art form.

The Danish provocateur (*Breaking the Waves*, *Dogville*, *The Idiots*) has united for the record that *Antichrist* was conceived and produced in the wake of a deep depression. Given that this film looks as though it could have been art directed by Hieronymus Bosch, there's little reason to question the veracity of his claim. His sanity? Nah, that's another thing.

It all starts off awfully enough. He (Willem Dafoe) and She (Charlotte Gainsbourg) are shot in silver black and white as they shower and then make love in slow motion. We listen to Handel's *Requiem* and watch as a toddler in a room or two away climbs down from his crib, unlatches the child gate and makes his way to a window blown open by a clanging anemometer outside. Seconds later, the child snags a saw (motion) descent to the pavement, and his parents commence a slow descent into madness. Or hell. At the very least, the most ill-advised attempt at couples therapy ever.

You see, He is a psychotherapist, and She is suicidal. Even Dafoe knows it's not a good idea to treat someone so close to you, but he rationalizes that he understands his wife better than another shrink possibly could. Big mistake. He takes her off meds and away to their isolated cabin in the Pacific Northwest woods to work through her grief and anguish. Even big mistakes have their silver linings. This time, the silver line never seen as better than a horror film.

Not that von Trier's latest fits neatly in that category. It's either a whole new sort of horror film or a whole new sort of lit allegory. At any rate, scintillatingly terrifying, disturbing, mysterious, even as uplifting. In his own, far example, Dafoe discovers hidden remnants of his wife's abandoned theme of "genocide," the extermination of suspected witches during the Middle Ages.

Calvin of all things with the red carpet on Sunday night at the 83rd annual Academy Awards. Don't miss the preview on Twitter with Margaret Broun @margb12

He comes across like an illustration of women being tortured. Unfortunately for him, the director has included those as a foreboding device.

No, the couple's time in the woods does not lead to psychic wounds or bring them closer. Gainsbourg doesn't respond at all well to treatment. On the contrary, she directs her overwhelming grief and existential rage toward her unsuspecting husband, and the result is unlike anything you've seen on screen. The black third act makes few look like



WRITER PRESSURE! Happiness isn't down the drain but inevitably (and not with the latest show) Lars von Trier

"Chaos reigns," that's probably as far a starting point as any *Antichrist* as it once mesmerizing, got grossly that, staggeringly well acted, filled with startling, unapologetic images and boldly original. You love convinced it's the work of an artist who possesses singular gifts even if, when he made it, he may not have had all his marbles.

RICK KISNOAK

a beach-party picture. The faint of heart would do well to steer clear.

Every viewer will find his or her own meaning in the movie. Von Trier has called it "a testament of atheism." And, given that it contains a scene in which a fox creates the pronunciation,

with startling, unapologetic images and boldly original. You love convinced it's the work of an artist who possesses singular gifts even if, when he made it, he may not have had all his marbles.

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans ★★★★★

By coincidence, *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans* (as I like to call it) finally touched down in Vermont at the same time as Kevin Smith's *Cop Out*. One of them is the funniest cop

striker to the winds, lap two stars off the ratings; the other (if on the other hand, you still fondly remember *Cop* giving a run in *Harper's* *Kim* or *Cracking Up* like a nutcase in *Play Off*) got to the theater immediately. The actor's looked at his own loose head of gold with vulnerability and irony, and Fleming, who loves to document insanity in the perfect calm.

Cage's character has the tender but lieutenant in the Big Easy, is looked on plenty of other stuff, too, though he never definitely that "It's all perception. Escape for the hero." (And the cocaine.)

The "worst movie ever" assessments of *Bad Lieutenant* may have something to do with the script, which suggests a police precinct dreamed up by wretched college students at 3 a.m. While waiting for parts to arrive "There's this cop, see, and he's a badass motherfucker who doesn't play by the rules. Only we're talking a real motherfucker. A doctor prescribed him Vicodin after he put his back out saving somebody from Hurricane Katrina, and now every chance he gets, he's snatching contraband from the Property Room. He shares his stash with a hot call girl (Zoe Lister-Jones), once thousands to a hooker (Brad Pitt), moves his gun around and abuses his badge to get high and laid. But nobody seems to notice, and he just keeps getting promoted. Because it's America! Totally insane, man."

In reality, *Bad Lieutenant* was written by a seasoned veteran of the genre—William Puchner, whose credits include "Murder One," "NYPD Blue," and, yes, "Cop Back." One can only conclude

that, bored with the conventions of the gritty urban whodunit, he opted to turn them into farce.

The apparently stupid Fleming, who doesn't even see retirement as solving the plot's central mystery, either (2) involves a confused berserker, finally and a drug dealer named Jack Pine (John "Kicker" Doolittle). What does interest the director is satirizing American hypocrisy—effort on an individual level seldom extending that of our hypocritical waste of statistics—and staging, literally beautiful shots of animals. Perhaps Fleming has made peace with animals since he warned us not to feed humanity in their eyes in *Grizzly Man*. Or maybe what he likes about them is precisely how useful their untamed lives are after the fading of Cage and his costars. Whatever the reason, you've never seen a fish or an iguana looking quite so baffled.

Fleming may well view Cage's bad lieutenant as the unrepentant ugly American. He takes what he wants, ignores half-assed rationalizations, shudders with guilt for a few seconds and then goes back and does it all again. The thing is, he's also perversely flexible. Unlike other actors named for their excesses—Mel Gibson, say—Cage doesn't hide behind an array of macho "intensity." Like *The Dark Knight's* Joker or *Damn Little from "The Wave,"* the *Bad Lieutenant* puts it all out there, and he owns it. And that's why even though the movie breaks every law of plausibility with glee, it's a tall tale bound to be quoted for years to come.

MARGOT HARRISON



LOVE ME, TEND ME: It would take informed others behind the scenes of *Bad Lieutenant* to know that the director is a true professional and a true

movie in years, and it's not the one being advertised as a comedy.

This film from legendary director Werner Herzog is what you'd call drive-by. Roger Ebert put him on his list of best films of the decade. Meanwhile, a bunch of articulate commentators on the New York Times website insist it's the worst movie they've ever seen. Many rate with indignation that all it has in common with Abel Ferrara's cult film *Bad Lieutenant* (1992) is the title.

Should you chance it? Take a reading of your Nicolas Cage tolerance. If you enjoyed him in *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* but cringe when he throws off re-

offer wood from 11-2

Curses, Foiled Again

A man ribbing his elderly victim in San Diego took exception when a bystander interrupted the crime and punched the ribber in the face. The ribber responded by calling the police to report the assault. When officers showed up, they arrested the 43-year-old caller (San Diego Union-Tribune).

Police had little trouble finding two men who robbed a convenience store in Cataño County, N.C. The suspects called the police shortly after their get away to request help with a flat tire. One of the officers recognized the men from a seven-minute video of the robbery and arrested Mark Franklin, 46, and James Jennings, 31. (Charlotte Observer)

Rocket Man

A 32-year-old man having a shoddy party in Oakland County, Mich., stuffed a used mattress in his car with gunpowder, gun powder and match heads, strapped it to his back and asked another person to light a fuse, asking what Underkneiff Mike McCabe called "a rocket launch effect." As the man headed downhill on an orange plastic sled wearing a motor cycle helmet and a plastic garbage bag as a cape, the device blew up, causing second-degree burns to the man's face and the right side of his body, and possible eye injuries. "Apparently he has this shoddy party every year and he throws down outrageous things at it," McCabe said. "But he's never blown himself up before." (Detroit Free Press)

Not So Fast

Authorities charged Gerald Gaudreault, 32, with shoplifting after security officers saw a roll in Springfield, Mass., found Gaudreault's pants stuffed with 78 1/2 ounce glass bottles of body lotion. Noting the suspect wore ordinary trousers but had strings tied around each ankle to keep the bottles from slipping out, police Sgt. John M. Delaney and officers "could not fit Mr. Gaudreault into the cruiser because his pants were bursting at the seams, and he could not kneel over," Delaney said security officers Jean Cohen told him they rubbed Gaudreault after a brief foot chase because he "had a hard time running and was extremely low-legged." His legs were also "extremely chafed." (Springfield Republican)

Morality Play

A male dance instructor told police in Milwaukee, Wis., that a man phoned for private dance lessons, but when he opened the door to let him in, the man shocked him repeatedly in the neck with a stun gun. According to the criminal

complaint, the 50-year-old attacker who was also carrying a shotgun, mistook the instructor was a "woman" who "dresses in women's" He told detectives that his church does not condone dancing while dancing and that he intended to scare the instructor "and tell him to leave the women alone." (Wisconsin State Journal)

Great Chieftain o' the Puddin'-Rae

Blatant among Scots Americans at reports that the United States was about to lift its 21-year import ban on haggis turned to dismay when the Agriculture Department denied the ban was being relaxed or lifted. A department official acknowledged the ban on beef and lamb products was under review but gave no time frame for its completion. The ban on British beef and lamb took effect during the night of 9/11 and one day later. Haggis is made from the heart, liver and lung of sheep. Some of the ban is controversial, and their regulation, dating to 1971, prohibits importing food made with sheep's lung, which makes up 10 to 15 percent of the haggis recipe. "If it hasn't got lamb's lung," Haggis producer Fraser MacGranger of Culchren's in Glasgow said, "it isn't haggis." (BBC News)

Senior Moments

Chinese officials in Shanghai warned of a "significant increase" in drug use among retired and middle-aged residents. Recreational users are taking ketamine, cocaine and amphetamines to help them stay awake during marathon night-long sessions. "The drug-taking mostly comes among groups in card rooms, a place popular among the elderly," Shanghai's anti-drug committee official Zheng Yongping told China Daily. Noting that drug addiction has increased among people over 35 from 23 to 40 percent in the past decade, the paper reported that rising drug abuse among gambling players has alarmed sports officials, who've tried to clean up the gambling scene, going so far as to seek advice from enthusiasts in the United States. (Britain's The Guardian)

Some practitioners are being trained to use defibrillators to revive clients with heart problems. Retail owners in the Laguna area sold electric shock treatment to treat customers' hearts is necessary because so many elderly customers are using their services. "Having customers die in our isn't exactly good publicity," the owner of one sex club told the Tulsa daily Commerce and Science (Oklahoma's Daily Telegraph).



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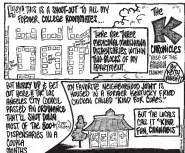
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